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Sol Spin, a Top Scan from Mondial, began daily operation at Knott's Berry Farm in April. COURTESY KNOTT'S BERRY FARM

Sol Spin stirs new excitement at Knott's

Mondial Top Scan joins ride lineup

AT: Dean Lamanna
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

BUENA PARK, Calif. — Knott's Berry Farm is increasing its seasonal harvest of thrills with the addition of Sol Spin, a new high-end flat ride, which opened April 21 during the concluding days of the annual Knott's Boysenberry Festival.

The wildly whirling, brightly colored attraction — from the Top Scan product line manufactured by Netherlands-based Mondial — is one of less than a handful of such rides in North America and the only one in the world with a 36-seat configuration. It fills a long-vacant space in the park's Fiesta Village sec-

tion that was once occupied by a Mondial Wind Seeker swing tower, which had a short run at Knott's before parent company Cedar Fair Entertainment relocated it to Worlds of Fun in Kansas City, Mo.

Jon Storbeck, vice president and general manager of Knott's, told *Amusement Today* that he's impressed by the across-the-board guest reaction to the unique thriller.

"Since Sol Spin's grand opening, we've seen a great mix of parents, teens and young adults enjoying it," he said. "This attraction has added excitement to our Fiesta Village themed area and yet another daring experience for our guests. And at night, Sol Spin's colorful and vibrant

► See SOL SPIN, page 6

Hersheypark soars with S&S Triple Towers

Installation is first in the country with three towers at different heights

AT: B. Derek Shaw
bdshaw@amusementtoday.com

HERSHEY, Pa. — On April 8, during Springtime in the Park pre-opening day weekends, Hersheypark unveiled its newest trio of attractions to the public — Hershey Triple Towers.

Being billed as "the first choose-your-thrill triple tower in the United States," the new attractions provide an experience for each member of the family with varying heights, thrill levels and speeds. Located in the Minetown section of the 110-acre park, each tower operates independently, launching at varying times with its own ride staff. Each tower affords a unique view of the park from up above.

Triple Towers are located in a spot where the Red Baron, Frog Hopper and Convoy kiddie rides were previously. Convoy and Frog Hopper were moved to where the Huss Condor (Flying Falcon) was located. That attraction was removed after Labor Day 2016 and stored for eventual use in the future. The Red Baron has been moved to near the entrance of the Boardwalk area in Hersheypark.

Talks on the project started three years ago. Pete Barto, director of sales for North America and Europe, S&S Worldwide,



Hersheypark's new Triple Towers offers park guests the opportunity to choose three heights of towers, 189 feet, 131 feet and 89 feet. The towers, from S&S Worldwide, opened on April 8. COURTESY HERSHEY PARK

Inc. describes the process, "The decision to create an attraction where guests could choose their level of thrill originally came from a discussion back in September 2015 with Hershey Entertainment and Resorts General Manager, Kevin Stumpf. We discussed the idea of a different size tower to address each level of thrill guests were willing to experience. As we discussed the concept, we got excited about the idea and began doing additional research to see if any

other park had done something like this before. The concept was further developed by their team, and with some valuable input from their board of directors, the Triple Towers were born."

Barto told *Amusement Today*, "We believe it is the first time that three different size towers, that offers three very different and unique experiences, were offered to guests at the same

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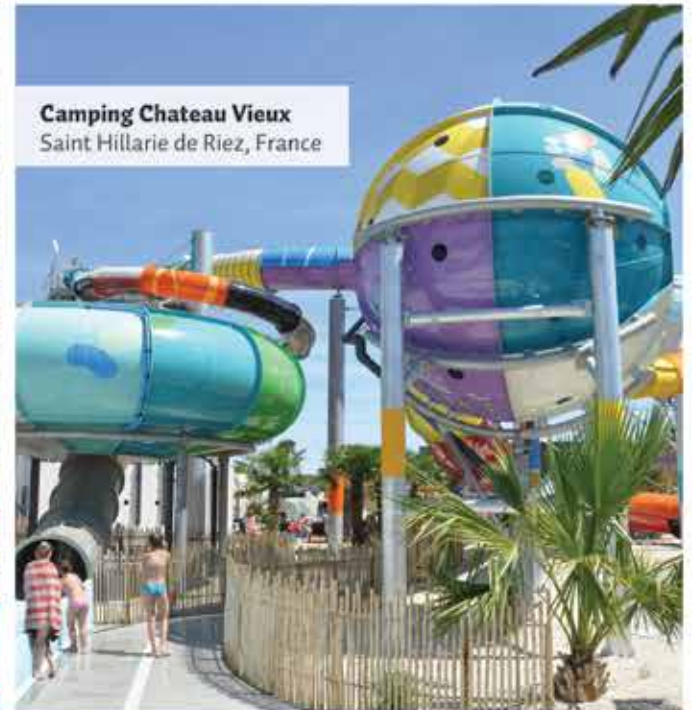
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EXPERIENCE THE EXCELLENCE

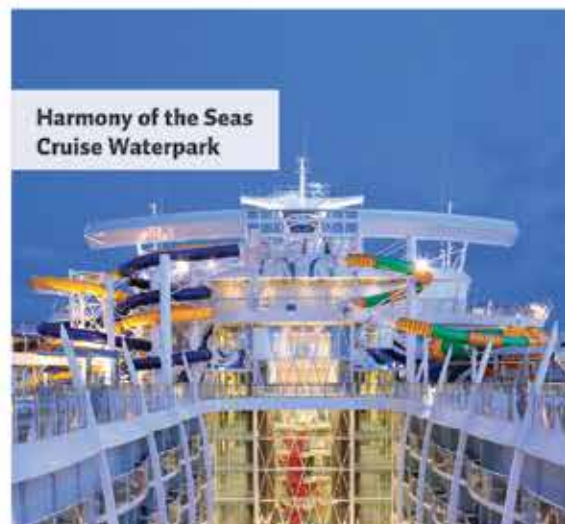
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NEWTALK

EDITORIAL: Gary Slade, gslade@amusementtoday.com

Best-Value parks list



Slade

An interesting magazine article was passed our way recently as published in the May/June issue of *Consumer's Digest*. The article ranked the best-value amusement parks in order based on their bang for the buck which includes attractions and cost of admission. It was interesting to see in the seven parks listed, that only one big themer made the list. The rest of the list is made up of the traditional, family-first parks that keep providing thrills with no nonsense gimmicks or pricing structures. It's also interesting to think that although some of the parks listed are now corporately-owned, they were all once family-owned, yet all continue to operate today as if they were all still family-owned.

Perhaps that operational, guest-first mentality is the very reason the parks below made this list. Let's hope others are taking notes.

Listed in order, the magazine's descriptions were:

1. *Holiday World*: Delivers a charming retro holiday theme and a water park that has two of the longest water coasters in the world. Ticket prices include admission to the water park, parking, sunscreen and unlimited soft drinks.

2. *Knoebels*: Known for its classic wooden roller coasters, Knoebels is one of the few remaining free admission, family-owned amusement park in the United States. Entertainment, picnic facilities, parking and Wi-Fi capability are also free.

3. *Santa's Village*: Designed for children age 12 and under. Santa's Village has a retro Christmas theme. Its reasonable admission rates include water park attractions, parking, picnic facilities, stroller and wheelchair rentals, pet kennels and Wi-Fi capability.

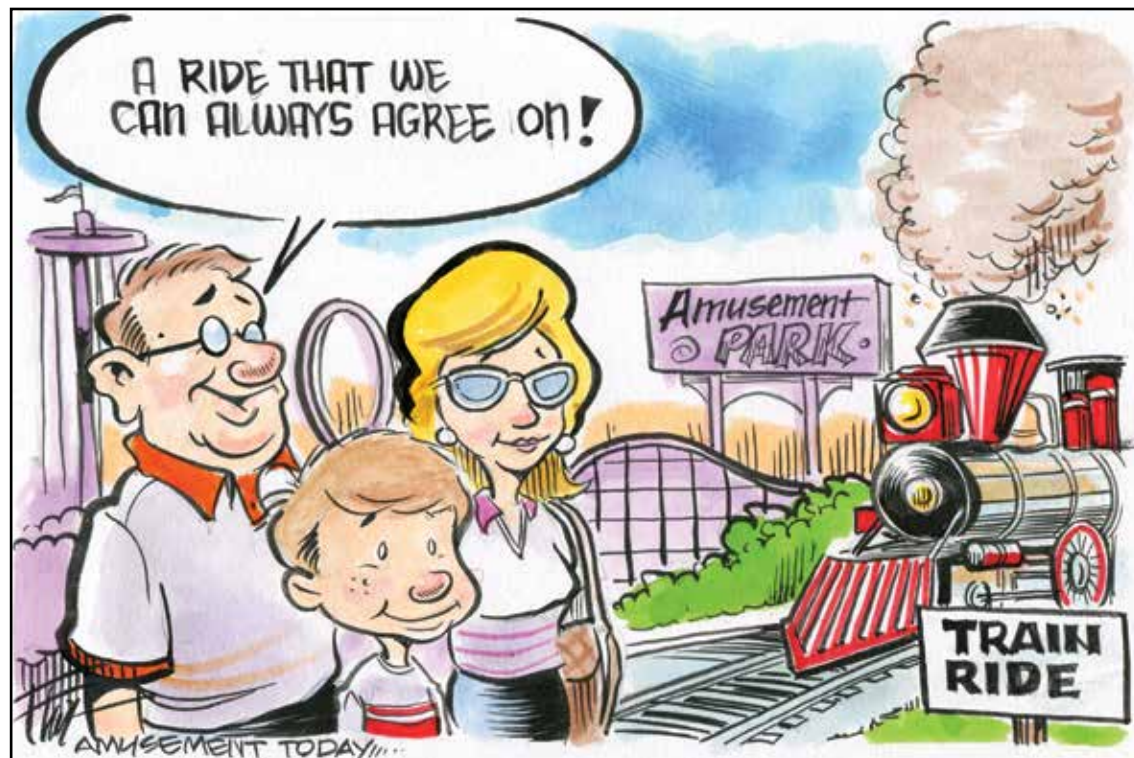
4. *Lake Compounce*: As the country's oldest continuously operated amusement park, Lake Compounce pays homage to its history as it delivers modern-day thrills. Admission prices include entry to the water park and unlimited soft drinks.

5. *Dollywood*: Thrill-seekers will love its great selection of roller coasters, but Dollywood also delivers some of the best festivals and live entertainment of any amusement park. DreamMore Resort guests get good value with parking, early park admission, devices that let them skip ride lines and 2-day park tickets for \$70.

6. *Waldameer*: Waldameer dates to 1896 and has a charming, traditional vibe. Admission, entertainment, parking and picnic facilities are free.

7. *Story Land*: Story Land has a fairy-tale and nursery rhyme theme that's geared to the 12-and-under crowd. Parking and pet kennels are included with admission.

FLINT'S VIEW: Bubba Flint



EDITORIAL: Andrew Mellor, amellor@amusementtoday.com

Happy anniversary AT

As regular readers will have seen, the April issue of *Amusement Today* marked the publication's 20th anniversary issue. As publisher Gary Slade noted in his editorial at the time, he doesn't know where those years have gone, they've gone by so quickly.

This got me to thinking about when I first started contributing to AT myself with international news items, and, like Gary, I couldn't believe it when I delved into my AT files and discovered I'd been submitting stories since 2006. Quite amazing and longer than I had thought.

My own journey within the industry began in late 1979 when I joined the family business (as it was then) here in the U.K. called *World's Fair*. We published a weekly newspaper for the travelling fairground business, the coin-op sector and market traders in a combined publication of more than 80 pages per week. Subsequently we added other titles to our portfolio, one of which was the theme park magazine *Park World* in 1985 – one of, if not the, first full-color, magazine titles



Mellor

for the parks' business which I founded and edited for many years.

Like Gary, when I look back over the past 38 years, I cannot believe all that time has passed since I first set out on my chosen career path. And the older I get, the quicker the time goes by, as I am sure many will agree.

The way we journo's work these days has changed dramatically since I first started too. I remember many a trip around the U.K., Europe and even one in the U.S. to visit parks and manufacturers to compile articles, but, of course, nowadays the internet has changed all that as we can get so much information by just sitting at our desks. It's not the same, of course, and I miss getting out to see people face to face like I used to, but for the way I work nowadays (which doesn't just entail writing articles), the internet is key as it is for everyone.

My congratulations to Gary and the staff for reaching this milestone year in the history of AT. Long may it continue to keep readers informed about this wonderful industry we all work in.

AmusementTODAY
Your Amusement Industry NEWS Leader

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THE INDUSTRY SEEN

Helping to Give Kids the World



Extending the generosity they displayed during the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) trade show in Orlando last November, several IAAPA Expo Ambassadors reunited in Central Florida in February to volunteer at Give Kids the World Village. Shown (from left) are Ryan Lawler, Jessica Mueller, Kody Shelly, Molly Chidester, Brandon Thom and Matt Robbins. Give Kids the World Village, a 79-acre, non-profit resort for children with life-threatening illnesses, has hosted more than 140,000 families from all 50 U.S. states and 75 countries since 1986. COURTESY JOHN CHIDESTER

CHARACTER CORNER

Johnny Guitar, Opryland USA

Johnny Guitar was a musical mascot for Opryland USA, which billed itself as a show park rather than a typical theme or amusement park. He was one of six, larger-than-life, stringed-music-instrument-themed characters that could be seen strolling throughout the park in its early years, particularly in the American West area. Together the sextet formed the Guitar Gang: Johnny Guitar, Yancey Banjo, Barney Bass, Frankie Fiddle, Delilah Dulcimer and José Mandolin. Some of the costumes were almost nine feet tall and weighed from 40 to 90 pounds. The characters were prominently featured on souvenirs throughout the park. CARTOON BUBBA FLINT; HISTORY JEFFREY SEIFERT



2 MINUTE DRILL



AT: Janice Witherow



Sarah Donhauser takes a moment for the camera in front of the park's Switchback roller coaster. COURTESY ZAC DONHAUSER

Sarah Donhauser, ZDT's Amusement Park

Along with her husband, **Danny, Sarah Donhauser**, is co-owner of **ZDT's Amusement Park**, a family-focused FEC in Seguin, Texas, that is named for their three children: **Zac, Danielle** and **Tiffany** (ZDT). This family entertainment center began in 2007 with five indoor attractions and has continued to grow and thrive in just 10 short years... so much so that the Donhauser's opened the first modern wooden shuttle coaster, Switchback, in 2015, wowing guests... and the amusement industry. Sarah's perseverance, compassion and love of family are an ideal combination for making sure ZDT's continues to succeed.

Title: Co-owner and manager.

Number of years in the industry: 10.

Best thing about the industry:
We are in the business of fun!

Favorite amusement park ride:
Our Switchback roller coaster.

If I wasn't working in the amusement industry, I would be...
A therapist. I earned my PhD in Counselor Education and Supervision the same year we opened ZDT's. I was previously a therapist at The Rape Crisis Center in San Antonio.

Biggest challenge facing our industry...
The weather!

The thing I like most about amusement/water park season is... Making happy memories!

The summer movie I am most looking forward to is... No idea. I don't go to the movies often.

Favorite breakfast food...
I don't eat breakfast, but I love eating bacon and eggs for dinner and often eat cereal for dessert.

The book I am reading right now is...
I am not currently reading a book, but the most recent books I have read are "The Tipping Point"

and "Who Moved My Cheese?"

Biggest pet peeve:
Putting words in my mouth/being misquoted.

All-time favorite sitcom: "House."

Best fast food: Schlotzsky's.

If I had one extra hour in the day, I would...
Love to take a yoga class.

Take your pick: fruit or vegetables?
Vegetables, although my favorite food is a fruit disguised as a vegetable, avocados.

Do you do most of your shopping online or in the store? In the store.

When it comes to potatoes... baked, mashed or fried? Loaded mashed!

The household chore I loathe the most is...
Sorting socks.

My go-to summertime drink is...
Iced Tea with Sweet n Low and Sonic ice.

The sporting event I would most like to see in person is...
San Antonio Spurs NBA championship game.

My next vacation will be to...
Lagoon Amusement Park and Bryce Canyon in Utah.

Ten years from now I hope to be... Healthy.

My screensaver right now is... Switchback.

The longest road trip I have been on would have to be...
To Michigan when one of my sisters lived there.

Three words that describe my office are...
Varied, portable and flexible.

The web site I look at most often is...
zdtamusement.com, of course!



Connecticut

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► SOL SPIN

Continued from page 1

lights add to the lively atmosphere of the area."

"It definitely adds a lot of energy and activity to that space," concurred Bob Dean of Sarasota, Fla.-based Leisure Labs, LLC, which is Mondial's product representative in North America.

With six rotating spindles — each arrayed with floorless, rocking, shoulder harness-equipped seats — attached to a single large pylon that swoops to a height of 64 feet, Sol Spin's various degrees of movement make for an especially dynamic ride with major visual impact. Its centrifugal forces approach 4 Gs.

In addition to a capacity of three dozen passengers (most Top Scans seat 30), the custom version of the Top Scan Venturi model Mondial built for Knott's includes four XL seats that comfortably accommodate larger riders.

Dean described the Top Scan as a long-proven attraction with superior programming flexibility.

"For a while, it was referred to by many people as the most popular high-end



With centrifugal forces up to 4 Gs, Sol Spin's intensity is fully programmable. The ride fills a space formerly occupied by a Mondial Wind Seeker.

COURTESY KNOTT'S BERRY FARM

flat ride in the world," he said. "When you walk down the midway at Oktoberfest, there's a Top Scan. You walk into any fair in Europe, there's a Top Scan. The lines are always long."

The ride's intensity, he noted, can be programmed from "'family' to 'shake your teeth out of your head.' Knott's has chosen to go with a more family-oriented program, but I still think it's a wild ride."

Getting Sol Spin into po-

sition at the park took about a week, according to Dean. "Mondial came up with system to easily install the ride on the same foundation that previously existed for Wind-Seeker. Knott's was ready for this ride long before it got there because the base, or integration, plate connecting the foundation to the ride system was already in place. It was one of the smoothest, easiest installs we've ever done."

Dean, a 30-year industry veteran, feels the relative

rarity of Top Scans in North America and particularly on the West Coast — others exist at Canada's Wonderland near Toronto, Lagoon in Utah and Carowinds in North Carolina, plus one on the fair circuit — will make Sol Spin a strong draw for Knott's in the seen-it-all Southern California theme park market.

"Cedar Fair buys rides that they can count on," said Dean, who, among other projects with Knott's, represented Mack on the park's purchase of the Coast Rider wild mouse and Sierra Sidewinder spinning coaster, also represented Great Coasters International on the renovation of the Ghost Rider wooden coaster. "In this case, they have learned that they can count on Mondial to produce a very nice product."

While Dean characterized Sol Spin as "badass," park manager Jon Storbeck preferred to soft-pedal the ride's more extreme attributes.

"With this newest attraction, Knott's continues its tradition of creating new, fun experiences for families to share and creating memories they will cherish for years to come," he said.

•knotts.com

FAST FACTS

Name/Park/Opened
Sol Spin/
Knott's Berry Farm,
Buena Park, Calif./
April 21, 2017

Type
Top Scan flat ride
(Venturi model)

Ride Location
Fiesta Village

Maximum Height
64 feet

Experience
Multidirectional rotation
in rocking, floorless,
shoulder harness-equipped
seating at up to 4 Gs

Capacity/Throughput
36 passengers/432 pph

Height Requirements
Min. 54 in./max. 72 in.

Special Features
4 XL seats; only 36-seater
Top Scan in the world

Supplier
Mondial World of Rides
Heerenveen, Netherlands
(via Leisure Labs, LLC,
Sarasota, Fla.)





Congratulations!

Congratulations to
Knott's Berry Farm
with the successful opening
of the **Sol Spin**
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VRoundup

Amusement Today highlights recent developments in the virtual reality (VR) amusement business sector:

•**Imax Corp. and Warner Bros. Home Entertainment** have entered into a VR co-financing and production agreement to develop three premium, interactive VR experiences based on some of Warners' most highly anticipated films, including *Justice League*, *Aquaman* and a third experience to be announced. The companies plan to launch one experience per year — beginning with *Justice League VR* in late 2017 — with all receiving an exclusive window in **IMAX VR Centers** before moving to other VR platforms, such as in-home and mobile. Imax opened its flagship VR venue in Los Angeles in January and will add more locations in New York City, California, the U.K. and Shanghai soon.

•Filmmaker **Zhang Yimou** (*House of Flying Daggers*, *The Great Wall*), who choreographed the opening ceremony of the 2008 Beijing Olympics, is riding the VR wave in China. Through his startup company, **SoReal**, which presently is headquartered in a 10,000-square-foot basement under a shopping mall in Beijing, Yimou is developing a VR park that he has described as the world's first. The project combines VR headsets in a 4D cinema environment. The company is hoping to debut its concept in eastern Jiangxi province by year's end.

•In pursuing a PhD, Queensland, Australia-based roller coaster enthusiast and researcher **Malcolm Burt** — creator of the 2016 documentary *Signature Attraction*, which examined the deeper allure of coasters and amusement parks — has been exploring what is needed to create the ultimate VR theme park ride. He has since been tapped by German waterslide manufacturer **Wiegand-Maelzer** to help create the world's first VR waterslide; it is expected to open at **Galaxy Water Park** in Erding, Bavaria, Germany, later this year.

—Compiled by Dean Lamanna



The tallest of the Triple Towers at Hersheypark is Hershey's Bar at 189 feet. It features a round gondola seating 20 passengers. The 50 second ride reaches a top drop speed of 45 mph. COURTESY HERSEYPARK

►TOWERS

Continued from page 1

park. We believe a configuration of towers like this will be a "rite of passage" for guests coming to the park year after year as they build up the courage to ride each tower of increasing height and thrill."

Kathy Burrows, public relations manager indicated that S&S held true to the construction timeline, finishing by the date the park requested. "We decided to open the Hershey Triple Tower for our Springtime in the Park event, in early April. Never before have we opened a major attraction this early in the season. Constructing and commissioning an attraction during the winter in central Pennsylvania can be tricky. Despite the weather, we opened our newest attraction on time," said Burrows.

The three towers, named Hershey's Bar, Reese's and Hershey's Kiss stand 189 feet, 131 feet and 89 feet respectively. The three towers combine to give the park about 1,400 passengers per hour. Total cost for the project was \$8 million.

Growing up in Central Pennsylvania, Barto has a special attraction to the park. "For me personally, it was a dream come true to create a ride attraction for Hershey-park. I grew up going to Hersheypark as a child, and my oldest and best childhood memories came from my family enjoying a day in the park. It was overwhelming for me to consider that I now have a ride in my hometown park that could create some of those same memories for the next generation of guests visiting Hersheypark."

Hersheypark guests are liking the opportunity to select the tower of their choice as Burrows explains, "Our guests enjoy choices. The ability to "choose your own thrill" allows our guests to select the tower (or towers) that match their thrill level." She continued, "Our guests have really enjoyed the three different experiences as each tower really does offer a different thrill."

Barto was quite complimentary about the staff and crew he worked with at the Sweetest Place on Earth. "They are one the best run parks in

FAST FACTS

Name/Park

Triple Towers
Hersheypark, Hershey, Pa.

Location

Minertown section, near park side entrance to ZooAmerica and across from Minertown Restaurant

Manufacturer/Type

S&S Worldwide/Multiple towers

Height/Speed

189/131/89 feet/45 mph (all three)

Tower Names

Hershey's Bar/Reese's/Hershey's Kiss

Capacity per Tower

20 (in the round)/16 (4 each side)/12 (3 each side)

Tower Features

- Highest tower offers a combo experience (space shot and turbo drop)
- Middle and smallest towers are double shot towers
- First amusement park in the country with three towers at three different heights.

Ride time/Hourly Capacity

50 seconds/1,400 pph

Height Minimum

48 inches for all three towers

Project Cost/Opening Day

\$8 million/April 8, 2017

our industry. They have dedicated, knowledgeable, professional staff that are passionate about their culture, and committed to the legacy established by Mr. Hershey over 100 years ago. They carry a form of quiet pride in the work they do every day. They make it their goal to create lasting memories for their guests with every interaction. The more we worked with their team on this attraction, the more we learned about how important the culture and legacy established by Mr. Hershey is to this park. It became inspirational for our team as well."

How can you enhance your overall ride experience? Barto has a tip, "I recommend riding

one of the larger towers while seated in a seat facing one of the smaller towers. When the cart is launched above the other tower...it will blow your mind!"

Also new this year is a Chick-Fil-A location inside the park located across from the Music Box Theater in the Music Box Way section. It is open when the park is open, Monday through Saturday — closed on Sundays. Hersheypark is only one of a handful of amusement parks around the country with a location on property. Others include: Kings Island, Mason, Ohio; Kings Dominion, Doswell, Va.; Pleasure Pier, Galveston, Texas; and Carowinds, Charlotte, N.C.

Sign of Fun: Family Kingdom

Myrtle Beach's only seaside amusement park opened for the season April 8. Family Kingdom Amusement Park, in business for more than 40 years, is home to the 1966 John Allen designed PTC Swamp Fox wooden roller coaster. In March, the city of Myrtle Beach declared the 72-foot-high, 2,600-foot-long Swamp Fox a historic structure. The park also operates a Zamperla Wild Mouse/Zig Zag coaster dubbed Twist 'n' Shout, which opened in 2013. Their signature rides include an O.D. Hopkins Log Flume, Great Pistolero Round-up and the 100-foot-tall Giant Wheel. The 13-acre Family Kingdom is located on Ocean Boulevard at 3rd Avenue South. Its season ends Oct. 7. AT/B. DEREK SHAW



Congratulations to HERSHEY PARK on the opening of **HERSHEY TRIPLE TOWERS**



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INTERNATIONAL

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Belgium's Plopsaland De Panne opens Heidiland

AT: Andrew Mellor
amellor@amusementtoday.com

DE PANNE, Belgium — The Plopsa Group continues to invest in its various outdoor and indoor parks and one of the latest developments to open is the new Heidiland themed area at Plopsaland De Panne in Belgium.

Owned by Belgian TV company Studio 100, which purchased the rights for the television show *Heidi* in 2008 and owns a number of other character IPs used in the parks, Plopsaland's introduction of Heidiland follows the addition of other themed areas based around other Studio 100 characters, including Maya the Bee and Vic the Viking. The *Heidi* TV show is a big success in Belgium, France, Germany and many other countries, with its popularity still growing.

The new area opened over the Easter period and takes the form of a small Swiss mountain village, as

in the TV show. The area features a variety of attractions and facilities, themed buildings, animation and special effects, the most breathtaking piece of Heidiland, according to the park, being the life-sized cuckoo clock, a special clock that surprises visitors every 15 minutes with a small show starring some typical Swiss figures.

The centerpiece ride of the new area, however, is Heidi the Ride, a wooden coaster from Great Coasters International. With a track length of 620 meters (2,034 feet) the attraction is Plopsa's first wooden coaster and the second such ride in Belgium. It utilizes two 12-seater trains to provide an hourly capacity of approximately 635 riders, reaches a maximum height of 22 meters (72 feet) and has a top speed of 71 kph (44 mph).

Additional elements of the area include an animal carousel for the youngest of visitors, Peter's Snack, a 150-person capacity F&B

outlet, the Heidi Shop, Heidi Games, meet and greet opportunities with Heidi and Peter and a special stop for the Plopsa Express. In total, the new development represents an investment of €7.5 million (U.S. \$8.2 million).

"We are particularly pleased about the result," said Steve Van den Kerkhof, CEO of the Plopsa Group. "Our own creative team has realized the entire zone from A to Z, ranging from the first creative conceptual drawings to the technical realization of the attractions and the finishing touches in the form of small decorative elements."

"We are continuing to invest in our parks," Van den Kerkhof continued. "The plans for a hotel and holiday park are in the final phase. We hope to submit the applications for the necessary permits quickly so we can start building. All this is within the master plan to make Plopsaland De Panne a multi-day destination."



The centerpiece ride of the new Heidiland area is Heidi the Ride (above), a wooden coaster from Great Coasters International. Below, Heidiland features an animal carousel for younger visitors. COURTESY PLOPSALAND DE PANNE



Duinrell ramps up the fun with a host of new additions

AT: Andrew Mellor
amellor@amusementtoday.com

WASSENAAR, The Netherlands — The Dutch holiday and amusement park Duinrell has upped the entertainment levels in 2017 with a range of new water-based attractions both in its amusement park and famous Tiki Pool, additions and renovations to existing attractions and new accommodation offerings.

In the amusement park section of the venue, a new 20-meter (66-foot) slide tower with three slides has been installed, while the popular Aqua Shute ride has been fitted with a boat lift. Also in this area, the Mad Mill has been renovated and two car parks have been combined and modernized for guests.

In the Tiki Pool, on May 1 the new triple

cone (funnel) slide was officially opened on May 1. Named Triton, the attraction allows guests to slide from a height of 20 meters along a 163-meter-long (535-foot) slide. Guests travel on two-person tubes into the cone before sliding upwards against the wall and then down once again. After the twists and turns, they continue sliding into the following two cones and on to the end of the ride. All the new slides have been supplied by the Dutch company van Egdom.

As well as the new cone slide, the Tiki Pool is being expanded with the addition of an almost 1,000-square-meter (10,764-square-foot) indoor water playground area. Called Playa, the name emphasises the water fun that children from 0 to 12 years old can ex-

► See DUINRELL, page 14



Triton is the new triple-cone slide attraction from van Egdom in the Tiki Pool at Duinrell. COURTESY DUINRELL

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Miral offers preview of Warner Bros. World in Abu Dhabi

Developer confirms project on target for 2018 opening

ABU DHABI, U.A.E. — Miral, Abu Dhabi's leading creator of destinations, recently announced that Warner Bros. World Abu Dhabi will feature six immersive worlds: Metropolis and Gotham City, inspired by the universe of DC Super Heroes and Super-Villains; Cartoon Junction, Bedrock, and Dynamite Gulch, themed after iconic animated brands such as Looney Tunes and Hanna-Barbera; and Warner Bros. Plaza, reminiscent of old Hollywood, where these seminal characters and stories were originally brought to life.

Warner Bros. World Abu Dhabi, which is located on Yas Island and set to open in 2018, will be a one-of-a-kind, world-class destination home to state-of-the-art thrill rides, interactive family friendly attractions, and unique live entertainment. From the action and adventure of DC to the wacky and wonderful world of Looney Tunes, this immersive and interactive new indoor experience brings some of the world's most popular stories and characters under one roof.

"Miral is proud to confirm that one year after announc-



Miral has revealed the first renderings of the new Warner Bros. World in Abu Dhabi. Shown here (from above left) are Dynamite Gulch, Cartoon Junction, Bedrock and Metropolis. COURTESY WARNER BROS. WORLD

ing its plans to bring Warner Bros. World Abu Dhabi to Yas island, we're making great progress with our partners where we're 60 percent complete and on track to launch in 2018," said Mohamed Abdul-lah Al Zaabi, CEO of Miral.

"We're excited to reveal new details about the six unique immersive worlds at Warner Bros World Abu Dhabi, which is a key part of our ambition to make Yas Island a top-ten global destination for family fun."

Guests will be swept away in Hollywood-style when they enter Warner Bros. Plaza, a celebration of all that is the Golden Age of Hollywood. Upon entering the park through the Warner Bros. Shield archway, guests will be transported to Hollywood where Art Deco architecture lines the streets and authentic Tinseltown details evoke the rich history of Warner Bros.

For the first time in the

Middle East, Super Hero fans will be able to stroll the streets of Superman's Metropolis, a modern-styled city of towering skyscrapers, and prowl the dark alleys of Batman's Gotham City in this larger-than-life land where heroic exploits and action-packed family fun wait around every corner.

The vibrant Cartoon Junction will bring together Bugs Bunny, Scooby-Doo, and other famous characters under a stylized cartoon sky that will immerse guests in the wonderful world of animation. From the fun and frenetic to the out of this world, Dynamite Gulch will take guests to the stars and deep into the canyon. Lastly, guests can ex-

plore Bedrock, a prehistoric world powered by birds and dinosaurs, where the modern stone-age family can have a "yabba dabba doo" time like The Flintstones.

"Warner Bros. World Abu Dhabi will be a state-of-the-art themed experience that authentically brings some of the Studio's most iconic characters and stories to life under one roof for the first time in the Middle East," said Pam Liford, president, Warner Bros. Consumer Products. "We have been closely collaborating with our partners at Miral to faithfully construct immersive worlds that resonate with precise details and are thrilled to share these unique experiences with fans next year."

Situated on Yas Island, one of the world's leading business, leisure and entertainment destinations, construction of the park is well underway, surpassing production expectations. The project has engaged 5,500 specialist engineers, workers and craftsmen to build a park that will span 1.65 million square feet. Warner Bros. World Abu Dhabi will be a fully immersive experience of six worlds comprised of 29 rides, shows and attractions.

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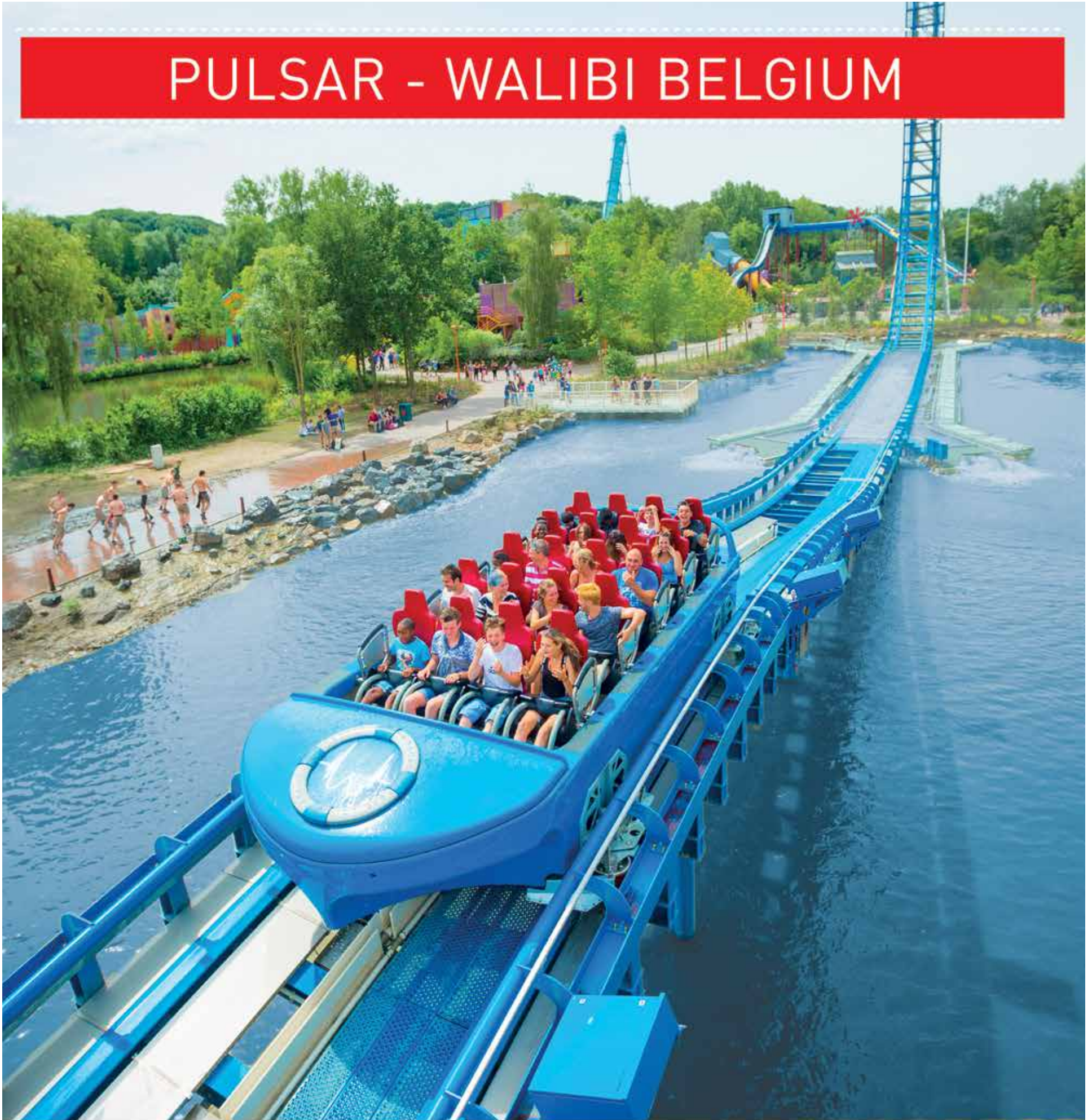
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►DUINRELL

Continued from page 11

perience in the new section. A large water climbing frame will be a key feature and will incorporate a tipping bucket and various items of playground equipment.

The Triple Slide, Duo Racer and Body Cone will also feature, these being waterslides specially designed for four to 12 year olds. For younger children, a heated

paddling pool has also been built in Playa. The official opening of the new area was due to take place in mid-2017.

Within the holiday park area of Duinrell, 41 new Premium Plus Duingalows, accommodating either four or six guests, have been added and were available from June 1. Additionally, 100 of the park's Comfort Duingalows have been given a makeover, while the Duinhostel has also received some refurbishment work.



A new 20-meter (66-foot) slide tower incorporating three slides has been added to the playground area within Duinrell's amusement park. COURTESY DUINRELL

Lagotronics Projects announces Kartyco as new representative

VANLO, Netherlands — Lagotronics Projects' GameCabIN is a standalone 3D gaming experience for various types of entertainment- and leisure centers, thanks to its modular design and the small footprint.

Kartyco, has been announced as the new partner of Lagotronics Projects. The company is based in Saint Leu la Forêt, France. They provide leisure and entertainment products and services to leisure companies such as electric go-karts and management services for several Family Entertainment Centers within the Paris region.

Alain Heyse, one of the two directors of Kartyco, is very enthusiastic about the GameCabIN: "Last year we set up the first GameCabIN at Looping Kids, an entertainment center in the Val d'Oise. It turned out to be a great success: it's an exciting and innovative addition to the play center – increasing the variety and diversity of the FEC's attractions – and providing an impressively high-quality immersive experience."

Mike Schulster, the other director, adds: "We truly believe that the GameCabIN is ideally suited to FEC's. It's a latest generation immersive game enabling play centers to diversify their activities. A great advantage is the minimal floor space it requires. The catalogue of games available, and the minimal supervision required, means that play center owners can ensure a rapid return on their investment."

Lagotronics Projects' CEO Mark Beumers has full confidence in this new partnership: "Kartyco is a company which perfectly matches our innovative, high quality products such as our GameCabIN. I'm convinced they will be able to storm into the French leisure industry with this unique gaming concept."

Lagotronics Projects creates interactive experiences for theme parks, museums, amusement parks and shopping malls. They provide innovative solutions in the field of interactive systems, game development, audio, video, lighting and show control. Besides the interactive dark rides, the GameCabIN is one of its successful and innovative solutions.



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WATER PARKS & RESORTS

► Six Flags gains Waterworld California contract — Page 18 / Kalahari Poconos now U.S. largest — Page 19-20

Miss Adventure Falls opens at Disney's Typhoon Lagoon

ProSlide supplies next generation Mammoth River

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — Miss Adventure Falls, a new family-friendly water attraction at Disney's Typhoon Lagoon Water Park, is now taking guests of all ages on a high-seas journey.

Miss Adventure Falls brings to life the story of Captain Mary Oceaneer, a treasure-hunting heroine and world-famous oceanographer who made it her goal to sail the seven seas and collect treasures to share with the rest of the world. Disney's Typhoon Lagoon became the home to Captain Mary's ship after a rogue typhoon swept

it and some of her artifacts to shore, where the locals then repurposed the goods and statues to create this fun, family raft adventure.

In a first for a water attraction in Florida, guests are transported via a conveyor belt — while seated in their treasure rafts — to the top of the slide, passing by Mary's wrecked ship where her parrot and diving partner Duncan talks alongside their treasures. From there, this white-water adventure takes them through twists, turns and dips where they will see deep-sea artifacts Captain Mary collected on her many treasure hunts around the world.

Miss Adventure Falls is the latest generation of the popular Mammoth River slides from ProSlide of Ontario, Canada.



The Miss Adventure Falls ride entrance and queue are adorned with treasures from Captain Mary's collection. Along the ride, guests will encounter deep-sea artifacts that Captain Mary collected on her treasure hunts.

COURTESY TYPHOON LAGOON



Captain Mary's parrot (right), Duncan, entertains guests while they ride the conveyor to the top of the slide (above). The inflatable rafts hold up to four "precious cargo" guests.

COURTESY TYPHOON LAGOON

Dubbed a Power River, this version features a conveyor system that transports four-person rafts filled with passengers to the top of the slide. Along the way, guests will encounter audio-animatronic characters that tell the story of Captain Mary Oceaneer as they work their way up the conveyor. Although conveyors have been used to transport occupied rafts on ProSlide's hydromagnetic and blaster coasters, this appears to be the first time a conveyor is used to move a four-person round raft on a gravity waterslide.

With a ride time of two minutes, Miss Adventure Falls is the longest attraction at Typhoon Lagoon.

Disney's Typhoon Lagoon offers water activities suitable for all ages, including one of the world's largest outdoor wave pools. The park opened in 1989 as the first manmade water park at Disney. It followed River Country, a natural water park with manmade slides and attractions, on the shores of Bay Lake. It featured a sandy bottom lagoon and used filtered



water from the lake. According to the Themed Entertainment Association attendance reports, Typhoon Lagoon is the second-most visited water park in the world behind China's Chime-long Water Park.

Signature attractions at Typhoon Lagoon include Crush 'n' Gusher, an NGBS water-coaster that takes riders aboard

inflatable rafts on a twisting, turning, up-and-down adventure; Ketchakiddee Creek, a water playground for children ages two to five (under four feet tall) and their parents; and Castaway Creek, where guests hop onto inner tubes for a meandering water tour through a misty rain forest and a hidden grotto.

—Jeffrey Seifert

New fun outside the big top

Circus Circus enhances pool, adds waterslides

AT: Dean Lamanna
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LAS VEGAS, Nev. — Circus Circus Las Vegas, famous for offering the world's largest permanent circus and Sin City's only major indoor amusement park, is adding some guest-participatory acrobatics outdoors as it undertakes an attractions-based expansion of its pool area.

Called Splash Zone and set for completion by the start of summer, the new complex includes a 50-foot-tall tower with three waterslides: a speed slide, an aqua tube and a four-lane mat racer. Additionally, there will be a family-oriented splash pad with features including water cannons, waterfalls and tilting buckets.

Among the basic relaxation upgrades to be available on the area's two existing, completely refreshed pool decks will be shade structures, cabanas, new lounge chairs, new restrooms and personalized lockers. A refurbished snack bar and a mobile



Construction progress on the new Splash Zone pool expansion at Circus Circus Las Vegas was well underway by mid-April. COURTESY CIRCUS CIRCUS LAS VEGAS

food truck will provide food options.

"We're always looking for ways to keep our amenities fresh and fun for our guests," said Eric Fitzgerald, general manager of the resort. "We are excited to expand our pool experience, adding features that kids of all ages will enjoy."

"Circus Circus will be the only hotel on the Las Vegas

Strip to offer three unique family-friendly experiences with our new pool amenities, The Adventuredome theme park and Midway."

Further enhancing the experience, the expanded pool and its offerings will be available only to hotel guests, and there will be an area dedicated to guests 18 and older.

•circuscircus.com

Wynn Resorts greenlights \$1.5B lagoon, expansion

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — The board of Wynn Resorts has given the company the go-ahead to build a landscape-altering, one-of-a-kind attraction at its eponymous resort property on the Las Vegas Strip.

Initially proposed a year ago, Paradise Park is a \$1.5 billion redevelopment of 130 acres currently occupied by a golf course. The centerpiece is a 20-acre, watersports-and-recreation-ready lagoon surrounded by white sand beaches, additional convention space, a new hotel tower and a boardwalk or promenade lined with shops and restaurants, plus unspecified entertainment.



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Six Flags to manage Waterworld California

Former Premier property was sold in 2007

GRAND PRAIRIE, Texas — Six Flags Entertainment Corporation, announced it has entered into an agreement with EPR Properties, owner of Waterworld Calif., to operate the water park located in Concord, Calif. Waterworld California, formerly owned and operated by Six Flags, is Northern California's largest water park and is located 18 miles southeast of Six Flags Discovery Kingdom. The agreement is subject to approval by the City of Concord.

"This is an exciting new venture and a great opportunity to provide families with more entertainment options in this important market," said Six Flags President and CEO John Duffey. "Guests in Northern California will now have the opportunity to enjoy two beautiful Six Flags parks. This is truly a win-win, as we welcome our 20th property—Waterworld California—back into our family of parks."

The 30-acre Waterworld California features more than 35 water attractions, including the region's largest wave pool, an interactive children's play area and its newest offering—Break Point Plunge. This 270-foot-long looping thrill ride launches riders in a

capsule from a height of more than six stories. Other extreme slides include Honolulu Half-pipe — a mammoth curved tube slide — and Cliffhanger, one of the park's signature speed slides.

Waterworld California opened in 1995 as Waterworld USA. It was one of two Northern California water-parks operated by what was then Premier Parks. The park eventually became a Six Flags property when Premier Parks acquired Six Flags in 1998. Six Flags divested itself of several properties in 2007 and Waterworld transferred hands to CNL Lifestyle Properties. In 2016 CNL sold its recreation division to EPR Properties, the specialty real estate investment trust that currently owns Waterworld.

Waterworld California opened for the 2017 season on May 13. Six Flags Discovery Kingdom continued weekend operation until starting daily operation, beginning May 26.

Prior to 2007, Waterworld and MarineWorld/Discovery Kingdom were marketed together. The two parks are approximately 20 miles from each other, and it is likely that admission to Waterworld will be included with a Six Flags Discovery Kingdom Gold season pass. Most other Six Flags parks are paired with a water park either nearby or on the same property.

—Jeffrey Seifert



Waterworld features more than 35 attractions on 30 acres in Concord, Calif. that includes body, slides, tube slides, a ProSlide Tornado, a drop capsule sidewinder slide and one of the largest wave pools in the area. COURTESY SIX FLAGS

Great Wolf Lodge moves corporate HQ to Chicago

CHICAGO Ill. — Great Wolf Resorts Inc., the largest operator of indoor water park hotel resorts in North America has moved its corporate headquarters from Madison, Wis., to Chicago, Ill.

The company has been in Madison since it was founded in 1997. The first Great Wolf Lodge opened nearby in Wisconsin Dells, Wis., with 117 suites and 20,000 square feet of water park space. Its success spurred a new industry trend that brought first-rate accommodations together with family recreational activities, all under one roof. That original facility has been expanded twice and now includes 437 suites and a 76,000-square-foot

water park. The company currently owns 14 properties and continues to build or acquire more.

The Chicago headquarters currently has about 45 staff members but that number is expected to grow to more than 100.

"As we expand the company, bringing it to Chicago made perfect sense," said spokesman Jason Lasecki. "Top talent is available here and, with 14 resorts now and three more on the way, being able to get to them is substantially easier from Chicago than any other place," he added.

The company's new address is 350 N. Orleans St., Chicago, Ill. 60654.



NEWS SPLASH

AT: Jeffery L. Seifert

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Royal Caribbean's Liberty of the Seas has been outfitted with multiple water slides from **Wiegand-Maelzer**. Liberty is one of the Freedom-class ships — a trio of cruise ships that broke size records upon their launch in 2006, 2007 and 2008. They have since been surpassed by the three Quantum-class ships but are still among the largest passenger cruise ships in the world. **FlowRiders** have been common among the Royal Caribbean line, however, the company has shown little interest in water slides until recently. The Wiegand slides are stainless steel, and include Tidal Wave, a large boomerang-type slide that has guests sliding in two-person rafts, up the side of a nearly-vertical slide, then descending into a second shoot with a speed bump, with a splash-down exit. The two remaining slides are twisting body slides, similar to those found on other cruise ships. Also included with the refurbishment is a water-play structure for children.

The Parks and Recreation Department of Baton Rouge, La., (BREC), has completed a \$3.4 million dollar renovation to its star water park that includes three new attractions. Opened in 2011, **Liberty Lagoon** water park featured a lap pool, lazy river, body slides and a bowl slide. Additions for the 2017 season include a **FlowRider** surfing simulator and two 36-foot-tall thrill slides. Also included in the renovation were the addition of more picnic tables, new restrooms, lockers and a second concession stand.

BREC was created in 1946 to provide parks, recreational venues and open areas to the people of East Baton Rouge Parish. The commission is funded by taxes, and operation of various facilities and programs and manages more than 180 parks and facilities.

The **Z Fun Factory** and **Waylon's Water World** water park in Yuma, Ariz., has been sold to **Namco USA**, a division of **Namco Ltd.** of Japan. Namco is better known for its video games produced during the video game boom of the 1980s. Namco developed Galaga, Dig Dug and Pac-Man, which eventually became one of the most famous and highest-grossing video games of all time. Although Namco Ltd. has branched out to amusement parks, this appears to be the first park purchase for the USA division.

Z Fun Factory and Waylon's opened in 2012 after **Becky Zeller** purchased the vacated Fun

Factory in 2011. On October 11, 2016, Zeller was forced to close the park citing financial reasons and began looking for a buyer.

The purchase was announced on April 20, 2017, and Namco planned to have the park open in time for Memorial Day Weekend.

Whihala Beach in Whiting, Ind. will be getting a floating **Wibit** obstacle course for the summer — the first on Lake Michigan. Whihala Beach is located near Chicago, but southeast of the state line, between Chicago, Ill. and Gary, Ind. The beach is operated by the **Whiting Parks and Recreation Dept.** The new floating water park will be west of Whihala Beach's main swimming area and will be able to accommodate about 120 to 140 people at a time.

These Wibit floating obstacle courses have become popular in recent years, and Wibit has installed similar parks throughout South America, Europe, Asia, and Africa. The inflatable water parks can be anchored to the bottom of any body of water including commercial pools and natural bodies of water — either saltwater or fresh water. There are multiple installations in the United States, but most are in commercial pools. This is the first installation in one of the Great Lakes.

Splash Kingdom in Canton, Texas, survived two back-to-back calamities but remained on track to open for the summer season which began May 10. The park's main office caught fire on the eve of April 28 some time shortly after 3 a.m. The fire spread from the main office and ticket counter to the building that houses the food stand and arcade. At the peak of the fire, flames were 50 to 60 feet in height and fire departments from Canton, South Van Zandt, Edgewood and Wills Point were all needed to extinguish the blaze. The park planned to install a temporary building to house ticketing and the main office.

The next day tornadoes ripped through the Canton area leaving a path of destruction in excess of 50 miles. The National Weather Service later confirmed seven tornadoes ranging from an EF-0 to EF-4 with winds up to 200 mph had touched down in four counties in and around the Canton area. Four people were killed in the deadly outbreak, and 56 were hospitalized with injuries. The city of Canton was the hardest hit. Splash Kingdom, however, escaped serious damage.

Poconos Phase II expansion more than doubles size Kalahari indoor water park is now largest in the country

AT: B. Derek Shaw

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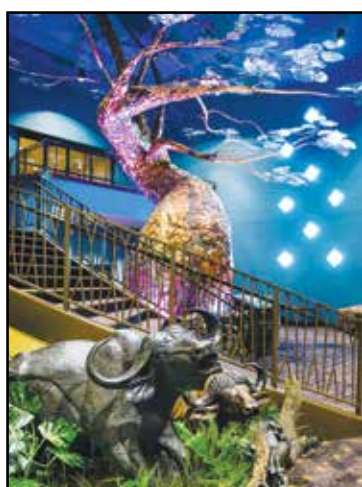
POCONO MANOR, Pa. — Entrepreneur Todd Nelson is proud of his newest water park resort — and rightly so. On St. Patrick's Day, Kalahari Resorts & Conventions — Poconos became America's largest indoor water park at 220,000 feet, beating the number two water park, his Sandusky, Ohio, location at 173,000 square feet.

It all started with pizza

In 1983 Nelson and his wife Shari, opened Pizza Pub in Wisconsin Dells, Wis., using high quality, fresh ingredients with strict attention to detail, the business took off in the community. Their delivery service was second to none earning high praise and community recognition awards. That work ethic became the model for the family's next venture.

Small and landlocked

As far back as 1992 there was an indoor water park in the Dells; however it was very small with only two slides and a pool. "In 1997, I sold numerous things that I owned and we built our very first one. It was called the "Raintree Resort," said Todd Nelson, owner/president, Kalahari Resorts & Conventions. At 12,000 feet it was the largest indoor water park at that time. However, the property was landlocked. Nelson picks up the story from there: "The one thing we could see that the rest of them weren't seeing was that they were going to get big. Back in the day you had no retail, you had no spa, you had no restaurants, you maybe had a bar and a tiny game room. And that was it. We could see this was going to be Vegas without a casino. That's really what we started going after



Handcrafted by the Kalahari Resorts and Conventions theme shop, the Joshua Tree stands tall in the lobby of the Convention Center.

COURTESY KALAHARI RESORTS

— concession stands, food vans, great restaurants."

Africa comes to America

Branding is everything and Nelson had to find the right match for his product. "What we wanted to do was find a theme that nobody was doing — or nobody was doing very well. In '99, nobody was theming to Africa. Disney does Africa now and they do it very well. I think it's basically Disney and us doing Africa," said Nelson. He continued, "We went over to Africa, somebody came up with the idea and we fell in love with the place right away. We made a couple of really good decisions — one was our name. I think we have a fabulous name, Kalahari Resort. It's kind of an oxymoron because the Kalahari Desert is the second largest desert in the world and the Kalahari Resorts are the largest indoor water parks in America."

In May 2000, the Nelsons opened their first Kalahari in the Dells along I-90/94. In 2002, Nel-

son added the nation's first indoor FlowRider surfing attraction and Master Blaster water coaster. Nine expansions occurred since then making it a 760-unit resort with a 125,000-square-foot indoor water park, 77,000-square-foot outdoor water park, 115,000-square-feet of meeting space, along with numerous restaurants, spa and salon, golf and shopping outlets.

Five years later in June 2005, Kalahari's second property opened in Sandusky, Ohio. Five expansions have taken place since opening, providing 884 hotel rooms, 173,000 square feet of indoor water park, a 77,000-square-foot outdoor water park, and 100,000 square feet of meeting space, along with restaurants, retail and a spa facility. As part of the 2007 expansion, the indoor water park debuted a Texlon transparent roof system that works as a natural heating source.

The 2007 recession hit, providing a roadblock for the intended third location in Fredericksburg, Virginia. "We actually couldn't borrow any money. During the recession, the site in Pennsylvania came open at Pocono Manor."

It would be another 10 years, July 1, 2015, that their the site in the Pocono Mountain region of Pennsylvania would begin operation. The resort is on a 150-acre site (with another 58 acres under option).

"The other thing we did that was really great was that we decided to make them very authentic, so there are all sorts of African art everywhere. We travel to Africa every year. This last time we bought four container loads of product that came in. That's what adorns the walls in Pennsylvania," explains Nelson.

Phase II components

The water park more than doubled in size with the second phase that opened in mid-March of this year (from 100,000 square feet to 220,000 square feet), and 520 additional rooms were completed bringing the resort to 977 total hotel rooms. Other new amenities include a Marrakesh Market retail area, and two new restaurants: Double Cut Steakhouse and Sortino's Italian Kitchen, raising the total to 11 food and beverage outlets. All told the water park expansion clocked in with a \$165 million price tag, bringing the entire Phase II investment to nearly \$400 million dollars.

Nelson described the water park enhancements that were



Above, The wave pool, and slide complex, that was a big part of the Phase II expansion project. Below, Coral Cove is a children's play area that has been a big hit with families and the younger set. AT/B. DEREK SHAW



part of the second phase: "We needed to add some things that we could not fit in Phase I, one of them being a very large wave pool. We run in rotation eight different waves. We added a ProSlide Tornado. We have four thrill rides. We added mat racers, two drop slides, the Coral Cove, which is a beautiful area for two- and three-year olds. We extended our [lazy] river. We now have a conveyor belt [transferring] you from Phase I river to Phase II river." This area also has food and beverage options and additional cabana rentals, complete with Jacuzzis. "In total, I believe we have 35 different rides in there. There's something literally for every age group. One of the reasons we build these so large is that we want to be able to cater to a six-month-old or an 80- to 85-year-old." Nelson then quipped, "That number is going up as I get older!"

Phase II also has a unique bar called Thirsty Turtle Swim-Up Bar. Nelson explains the backstory on the swim-up bar, with low-light design: "The instruction to the guys was, research Hugh Hefner's grotto at his house and make it nicer. I love the way it turned out. I think it turned out spectacular."

More than 500 additional

staff were added to the operation due to Phase II, bringing the overall total to 1,450 (year-round full-time and part-time). "We have so much labor need. If you want to work, you can easily get your 40 to 50 hours in a week, without a problem," said Nelson.

Attention to detail

The very animated and business savvy Nelson cruises his Pocono site welcoming guests, sometimes stopping and talking, always picking up any litter or debris that may temporarily inhabit his property. He looks more like a middle manager in a polo shirt and khakis and that's how he prefers things. Nelson walks through his kitchens and checks on events being hosted at the resort; however you will not find him behind a desk more than necessary. During an on-site tour he is quick to point out details that would not be top-of-mind for other people visiting the property.

While building the Sandusky property, Nelson met Joshua Reiner who was working at a sign shop in that area creating and selling signs. Nelson continued, "If you know artists, they like to create, they don't want



This model in hotel lobby shows the overview of both phases. The area left of the yellow line is Phase I, to the right is Phase II. In the center is the conveyor belt transfer from Phase I river to Phase II river. This is due to the change in elevation between both sections AT/B. DEREK SHAW

► See KALAHARI, page 20

►KALAHARI

Continued from page 19

to do the business side of it. He (Reiner) said hey if you guys give me a small building and a couple of tools, I can start making all of this for you."

In 2007, Nelson moved a 6,000-foot storage barn from his first Kalahari Resort to another site in Wisconsin Dells. This became the theme shop for Kalahari Manufacturing LLC, that later expanded to 20,000 square feet. Nelson buys the rides, and Reiner, who is the theming manager, along with his five-man design department, provides the theming and custom fabrication, right down to the last detail. This includes attraction, directional and price signs (excluding digital), themed lighting, even room numbers, all that is needed throughout the Kalahari Resorts properties "We make everything from all of our signs to theming to basketball hoops. If you can name it, these guys can build it," exclaims Nelson. The shop primarily makes things out of wood, various metals or foam.

"One of the metals we built was our 42-foot-tall tree that adorns the lobby of the convention center. It's made out of copper, bronze, brass and nickel. It is outrageously cool," said Nelson. "Then they sculpted a leopard, bronzed the leopard, built a body and put the leopard up in the tree. It's just a fabulous greeting when you come into the convention center. Everything is

made so that it is completely indestructible. You cannot destroy this stuff. The nicest thing about our theme shop is that whatever we can dream of, we can build it," said Nelson.

ProSlide is the primary supplier

"Since 1999, ProSlide has done almost 100 percent of our stuff. I like working with Rick Hunter and Jeff Janovich. They do everything they say they are going to do. They have wonderful product. They have never missed an opening date," touts Nelson. This even applies to Phase II of the Poconos property, "If you would have come here six weeks ago, you would have laughed, saying we would never have been opened. Their guys are great. They're wonderful. They're very innovative. They are very creative. We have a lot of respect for those guys. We do a lot with them." Eighteen of the water attractions in Phase II were provided by ProSlide.

The family that works together, plays together

Nelson met his wife Sheri when they both were 15 and taking a driver education class in high school. This was the beginning of a long-lasting partnership. The secret to the success of their operation is how the company is structured. All of the Nelson's grown children help run the business along with sons-in-law and daughters-in-law. "All five of my children have a different specialty



Owners of Kalahari Resorts and Conventions, the Nelson family, stop for a quick photo during the opening of their newest resort in the Pocono Mountains, Penn. This is the family's third resort but first foray into the East Coast. From left: Alissa Gander, Ashley Turzinski, Natasha Lucke, Shari Nelson, Todd Nelson, Todd Nelson Jr., Travis Nelson. COURTESY KALAHARI RESORTS



See more on
VIDEO TRACK
at AmusementToday.com

in the company," said Nelson. One son handles operations at all three resorts, while another handles finance. One of the daughters is an interior designer, creating the ambiance Kalahari guests have come to embrace. One of the twin daughters runs the convention side of things while the other handles retail operations.

Family vacations are all centered on the African continent. These family trips and experiences, complete with a film and photography crew, are part of the Kalahari One World Adventures. Footage is shot for their marketing videos and television commercials. It is also used to create six-minute mini-documentaries that can be seen in guest rooms. Topics covered include seeing the wildlife up close; surfing the South African coast; visiting street artists, musicians and tribal troupes; tracking down reclusive mountain gorillas; white-water rafting down the Zambezi River; visiting a small-scale coffee farm on the shores of Lake Kivu in Rwanda; traveling game reserves in Tanzania; experiencing a food odyssey featuring some of Africa's top chefs to roadside grill jockeys and even climbing 20,000 feet in six days to the top of Mt. Kilimanjaro. In 2014 alone, the Nelson family traveled 24,752 miles, in 6 countries over 23 days. Sometimes guests are surprised to see Nelson. "I was working behind the coffee shop and I see this lady pointing at me to her husband. They were laughing. I went over and talked to them. The lady said, 'We thought you were fake. We saw your video and we thought it was kind of an acting thing. You're actually real.'" Nelson then said, "Oh yeah, we're real and we work too!"

All the hallways at the resorts are adorned with photographs and artifacts from the places they have toured. "We love Africa, we love going to Africa. We go to Africa and we buy for all the projects. We buy in Ghana, Johannes-

burg, Nairobi, Cape Town, Harari, Zimbabwe. We really don't have a plan as to where stuff is going. We just buy what we like and what we think our guests will like. It really works out well. What we can't buy, we make."

There are no stockholders breathing down their neck as Nelson explains, "Us being a family owned business, we're not corporate America. We don't have any outside investors; we don't even have a board. We get to do whatever we want and we do it. That allows us to be creative without having to answer to other people. That's nice."

Test marketing, family style

"Now we have nine grandbabies, number 10 on the way and that's why I think our six month old to five year-old areas have gotten so tremendous, because of our grandbabies. We have case studies with them. They love to play in them," said Nelson. His favorite part of the Poconos water park is the six month-old to five year-old play area as he described one attraction new to the Pocono venue, "We built a water table. By accident we built these five little seats in there for babies to sit in them. They have a single jet of water coming out very slowly. That's all it takes to entertain a six month old to one year old. You see them putting their hands in it and making it spray. What's fun with this industry is you get to change it."

What about competition?

With three major players in the Poconos and a few smaller indoor operations, Nelson feels good about the mix: "Clustering indoor water parks is a good thing. We have a multi-million dollar ad budget, so does Camelback, so does Great Wolf. The Pocono Mountains is enjoying a rebirth that is going to go on for generations – it really is. The Pocono Mountains slumped in the eighties and nineties. They are just coming back right now, but they are coming back with a vengeance. People are investing big money here."

Good corporate citizen

Beyond the trio of water park

properties, Nelson is dedicated to philanthropic giving and corporate responsibility. The resorts serve as the host of numerous annual fundraising events. In Ohio, Kalahari Field is a synthetic sports field at Huron High School funded through cash contributions, in-kind donations and fundraising events donated by Kalahari — Sandusky. The Resorts also support the Make a Wish Foundation, American Cancer Society and Multiple Sclerosis Society, through a myriad of ongoing philanthropic activities. In 2014, Nelson established the Nelson Family Foundation focusing on educational and medical advancements, defense of human rights and the advocacy of animal rights. The vision of the foundation is to, "create and sustain lasting solutions that will enrich the lives of present and future generations."

Howdy, Partner!

Not too far down the road, the Nelsons plan to open a fourth Kalahari location in Round Rock, Texas, 20 miles north of Austin. "We bought a fantastic 350-acre site. We are right across the street from Nolan Ryan's minor league baseball team. (Editor's note: Whataburger Field and the Round Rock Express are now the AAA affiliate for the MLB Texas Rangers Baseball Club.) We are dying to get to Texas. Unfortunately, Pennsylvania is only going to have the lead on the largest indoor water park for about three years because we're going to build a monster down there — a big one. We're going to build a big indoor/outdoor amusement park, lots of restaurants, live entertainment." One week after the Phase II opening, Nelson and five architects were off to Africa. He wanted to show them the architecture on that continent, so they would get a better appreciation of what he wants to capture in each of his resorts.

The Nelsons are also looking in Massachusetts and Virginia for possible future expansion of the Kalahari Resort brand, and they have a site in California they are waiting to get approvals on. "We're going to stay busy!" Nelson exclaimed.

FAST FACTS

Kalahari Resorts & Conventions — Poconos

Pocono Manor, Pa. in the Pocono Mountains, two hours north of Philadelphia and two hours west of New York City

Phase II project cost:

\$165 million for water park, nearly \$400 million overall

Hotel portion:

977 total rooms with 11 food and beverage outlets, shopping, spa, arcade and The Arena VR experience

Water park portion:

220,000 square feet with 34 attractions, 35 cabanas and 7 bungalows

Also in the complex:

65,000 square feet of flexible space in the Convention Center that serves Eastern Pa., New Jersey and New York. Staffing needs are 1,450 part-time and full-time staff. Ownership is Kalahari Resorts and Kalahari Development, LLC.

Phase II water park suppliers:

Slides: ProSlide Technology, Inc., Ottawa, Ont., Canada

Architects: Architectural Design Consultants Inc., Wisconsin Dells, Wi.

Aquatics Designer: Water Technologies, Beaver Dam, Wis.

Aquatics Construction: Neuman Group, Beaver Dam, Wis.

Water Filtration: Neptune-Benson, Coventry, R.I.

General Contractor: Kraemer Brothers, Plain, Wis.

Theming: Primarily in-house, however

The Weber Group, Sellersville, Ind. provided support

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PARKS, FAIRS & ATTRACTIONS

► Six Flags unleashes three Joker 4-D Free Spin coasters — Page 30 / Fairs — Pages 31-36

Funland Rehoboth Beach opens SBF SuperFlip360

Rides 4-U delivers newest park thriller

REHOBOTH BEACH, Del. — New for the 2017 season, Funland Park has opened its newest ride offering all the fun and thrills associated with flipping and spinning movements.

The SuperFlip360 spins 12 riders, as they face outward, all while swinging them 360 degrees up (40 feet in the air), over and upsidedown to give everyone their own front row view as they see the Funland from a new view — upside down during their one minute ride. Riders must be 48 inches tall to ride.

Funland reported that its crew has been hard at work to get the ride ready for its 2017 debut, giving visitors a ride like none other currently in the park. The ride made its public debut on May 13.

"Funland wanted to introduce a new ride to our guests that can offer more thrills and an exciting ride experience. The SuperFlip360 was the perfect solution for that as this ride offers a unique and exciting ride experience and fits nicely within



New at Funland in Rehoboth Beach is the SuperFlip360 from SBF/Rides 4-U. The 40 foot tall ride flips 12 passengers in a 360-degree upside down motion all while spinning them in a circular motion during a one minute ride. The ride opened on May 13. COURTESY FUNLAND

our footprint on the boardwalk in Rehoboth." Funland's Lynne Stewart told *Amusement Today*. "The guests reactions have been great! We have been getting many great responses like: two thumbs up; awesome, so much fun; I love how you can see the ocean when you are hanging upside-down and it's such a smooth ride."

The SuperFlip360 was

supplied by Italy's SBF which is represented in North America by Len Soled's N.J.-based Rides 4-U.

Also new this season, Funland added new games in arcade with a new selection of prizes. Skee-Ball fans will enjoy the all new lanes to test their skills on.

• www.funlandrehoboth.com



Drop of Doom VR on limited runs at various Six Flags parks

Six Flags continues to explore virtual reality opportunities. Having rolled out Drop of Doom VR earlier in the spring at Six Flags Over Georgia, the chain has debuted the experience at Six Flags Great Adventure on Zumanjaro (above), the world's tallest freefall ride, built by Intamin. The Drop of Doom VR storyline involves riders ascending a 100-story city skyline at the edge of a helicopter while fighting off invading mutant spiders. Each rider can score by destroying the attacking arachnids. Six Flags Great America offered a limited run from late April through May 29 on its Intamin Giant Drop tower. Six Flags Fiesta Texas will offer Drop of Doom VR on its S&S combo tower from July 15 – September 10.

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Moser Rides Super Sidewinder

Tonight Show goes prime time as ride

Universal Orlando Resort unveils Race Through New York starring Jimmy Fallon

AT: Dean Lamanna
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

ORLANDO, Fla. — NBC's *The Tonight Show*, America's most popular late-night talk program, became a whole new daily show at Universal Orlando Resort on April 6.

That was the debut date for Race Through New York Starring Jimmy Fallon, a ride inspired by the NBC television institution and its current host. Fallon and his family were on hand for the festivities, and a number of celebrity pals joined the fun to help him celebrate.

The attraction, located inside the resort's Universal Studios Florida (USF) park, takes guests on an action-packed race against Fallon in futuristic flying cars through the Big Apple — completely immersing them in the world of *The Tonight Show*. Utilizing the latest motion simulator and computer-generated 3D ride film technology, Race Through New York holds up to 72 "audience members" per cycle as it whizzes them

past iconic landmarks such as the Statue of Liberty, the Empire State Building and the program's home base, Rockefeller Center. A few thrilling surprises are tossed in, too.

"I'm happy. I'm grateful. I'm excited," Fallon told the grand opening crowd. In customary joking fashion, he added: "This whole experience has been a real emotional roller coaster simulator."

The host kicked off the celebration with a Manhattan-style ticker tape parade in USF featuring tons of confetti, a float and several beloved Universal Orlando characters. Joining Fallon on the float were *Tonight Show* house band The Roots, announcer Steve Higgins and an array of characters from the show, including Hashtag the Panda, the Ragtime Gals barbershop quartet and even Stepdad Gary from the popular "Ew!" sketch. The procession culminated with a countdown to the official ribbon cutting.

Race Through New York is the first ride at USF to



The grand opening of Race Through New York was attended by TV star Jimmy Fallon, who inspired the attraction. A building styled after New York's Rockefeller Center (above) houses the 3D motion simulator ride and memorabilia from NBC's *Tonight Show* (below). COURTESY UNIVERSAL ORLANDO RESORT



feature the resort's Virtual Line experience — allowing guests to enjoy other areas of the park while they "virtually" wait for their time to enter the attraction.

Not that the wait is particularly boring. Both outside and inside, the two-level building housing the ride is modeled after NBC Studios' Studio 6B at Rockefeller Center, where "The Tonight Show" is produced. After visitors enter, they can get an up-close look at significant moments in the program's 62-year history, including real props and set pieces. Among the artifacts are suits and other me-

mentos of past and present hosts (Conan O'Brien, too), vintage video cameras and monologue cue cards.

There's also a Studio 6B club in which guests are given the opportunity to play host at their own Interactive Desk, where they can send Fallon's famous Thank You Notes to their friends and family, prep for their race with a "Jimmy Drive" retro-style video game and watch their favorite *Tonight Show* clips.

For extra authenticity, the attraction's attendants are attired in garb similar to that worn by pages at NBC.

•universalorlando.com



Universal debuts learning apps

ORLANDO, Fla. — Universal Orlando Youth Programs has launched Your Classroom in Motion: A STEAM App Series, comprised of educational programs that turn some of Universal Orlando Resort's attractions into learning experiences focused on science, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics (a.k.a. STEAM).

Using a tablet with proprietary software, middle school and high school students will have the ability to make scientific observations, calculate speeds and vectors, and build a ride motion profile.

The programs include:

•**Transformers Roll Out:** Students learn about the engineering principles and analyze Transformers: The Ride-3D to reconstruct the ride vehicle's motion sequences.

•**Hollywood Rip Ride Rockit Science:** Students work in small groups to collect data and measure speed visually at different points along the Hollywood Rip Ride Rockit roller coaster.

•**Kongtroll Panel:** Using engineering principles, students will determine vectors and estimate distances to maneuver the ride vehicles around Skull Island: Reign of Kong.

•**Mummy Dig-Site Detective:** Focuses on scientific observation of Egyptian artistic elements and historical touches at the dig site beneath the Revenge of the Mummy attraction.

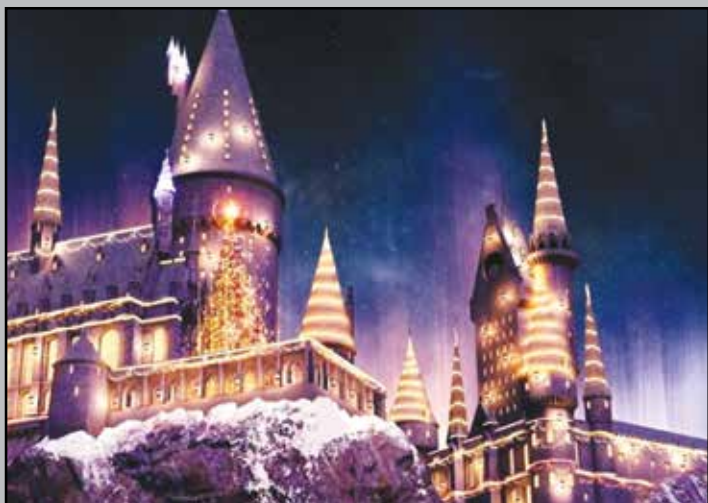
•**Jurassic Paleobotany:** Explore Jurassic Park for foliage from the era of the dinosaurs using a digital map.

"These programs were designed to ignite a passion for learning and show students that classroom lessons can be applied to future career paths," said Teresa Crews, Universal Orlando's educational program developer.

The app series adheres to national and state education standards. For more information, visit universalyouthprograms.com

—Dean Lamanna

Wizards in a winter wonderland



Universal Orlando Resort is extending its year-end holiday celebration, with this year's event running Nov. 18 to Jan. 6. And two major new additions are planned. The Wizarding World of Harry Potter will be transformed into a winter wonderland, with festive décor festooning the streets of Hogsmeade and Diagon Alley and state-of-the-art projection mapping enwrapping the castle. Storefronts will be decked out and holiday-themed food, drink and entertainment will be offered. Universal Studios Florida will be the staging area for the new Universal's Holiday Parade featuring Macy's, which will feature floats, balloons and characters including Shrek and the Minions from *Despicable Me* — and of course, Santa Claus himself. COURTESY UNIVERSAL ORLANDO RESORT

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Fiesta Texas kicks off 25th anniversary with Mardi Gras festival

AT: Tim Baldwin
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — In the spring of 1992, an old rock quarry was transformed into one of the most distinctive theme parks in the U.S. when Fiesta Texas opened its gates. With a rocky cliff sporting a backdrop, the setting featured large waterfalls, two attractions that went through the cliff walls themselves and a laser/multi-media/fireworks spectacular that used the quarry walls as its canvas each night. Flash forward 25 years and the park is now one of Six Flags' power hitters in terms of revenue and growth.

Throughout the park, several "Then and Now" markers have dotted the landscape with images old and current to help emphasize the anniversary.

In celebration of the occasion, the park is debuting multiple attractions to lure guests to return again and again. Kicking off the season was a new, first-ever Mardi Gras Festival. After it closed following a six-week run ending in April, the park was poised to open Thunder Rapids, a first-of-its-kind water blast uphill waterslide by ProSlide. A newly reimagined night spectacular — Celebrate! — premiered Memorial Day weekend. Later in the summer, a VR experience will debut, and even more surprises could be in store. The park's popular Fright Fest and Holiday in the Park rounds out an entire year of variety.

Six Flags Fiesta Texas Park

President Jeffrey Siebert told *Amusement Today*, "This [Mardi Gras] festival is the first for our company and it features a signature parade which includes eight custom-designed floats by the world-famous Kerns Studio out of New Orleans that does the real Mardi Gras parade. We have a lot of park décor, a live jazz band and streetmosphere — stilt walkers, jugglers, comedians, magicians — we really try to bring that flavor of New Orleans to San Antonio. Plus, all the Cajun cuisine and hurricanes... and beads, beads, beads."



Siebert

Guests playing games or purchasing the specialty foods receive strands of beads, but the real overload comes from the parade. As visitors line the streets for the parade, thousands of beads tossed each afternoon deck patrons in several festive beads to wear around the park for the remainder of the day. Groups and even everyday guests are selected to ride the floats to be the ambassadors of beads. "We can literally not get enough beads to our guests fast enough," laughed Siebert. "It's a hit."

In 1992, the park opened under the Opryland umbrella with its focus on highly entertaining shows. Becoming part of the Six Flags family later in the '90s, current management has not forgotten the park's show roots. Siebert credits



Colorful floats built by the famous Kerns Studios out of New Orleans delighted visitors daily. Six Flags Fiesta Texas produced the majority of park décor for the all-new festival. AT/TIM BALDWIN



A lively jazz band set the stage for Fiesta Texas's new Mardi Gras festival as guests entered the Los Festivales area. The event featured live music and entertainment as well as Cajun cuisine. AT/TIM BALDWIN

his entertainment department, particularly Director of Entertainment Ben McTyre, for jumping feet first into the creative buzz that creates festivals and park décor.

"Our entertainment team loves not only creating exciting new events like Mardi Gras and the new 'Celebrate!' nighttime spectacular, but also keeping the streetmosphere and live entertainment new and fresh. And it doesn't stop when the summer ends," said Siebert.

"We have not done a [major] parade here," said McTyre. "There was not a lot of experience on staff on how to stage one. The team really came together and pulled it off really well. It's pretty awesome, and we are quite proud of it."

The live entertainment is always front and center. Upon arrival into the park, the King William Brass Band was setting the mood on the streets of Los Festivales with New Orleans staples and jazzed-up versions of popular favorites.

In addition, the spring and

summer had live shows ready to roll as the 25th anniversary season opened. Cleverly, the park uses two casts to combine into one gigantic show in the park's marquee theater. The musical shows features music ranging from Motown to current hits and a mega-mix of (81) "one hit wonders" over three decades which elicits screams from the crowds.

"It's an excellent team," offered McTyre. "They have a lot of fun; it's an amazing band, an incredible support staff, our costume department [also responsible for much of the Mardi Gras park décor], the audio and tech team — I couldn't be prouder. And for the 'Celebrate!' closing show, we thought it was time to go in and reimagine it. I think it is more global. The video mapping is custom-created just for this show. We chose songs that we could really choreograph pyro to. It's a wider show this year, bigger pyro, lower pyro, propane cannons, fountains... if I have a kitchen sink handy, it will be thrown in."

With much success already under its belt for the 25th anniversary, Six Flags Fiesta Texas is on course for a phenomenal year. As the Mardi Gras festival grows (and could serve as a template to sister parks), the park can take its learning curve and can come back bigger and brighter.

"We knew hurricanes, which are adult beverages unique to Mardi Gras, would be popular," said Siebert. "But we ran out of our entire order of specially made glasses in the first weekend that we thought would run through the whole festival. We had to re-order more glasses than we thought. Guest reaction to our new festival was truly magical. We had season pass holders stop us saying the energy and excitement around Fiesta Texas is contagious; but what's really cool is it's not only from our guests, but from our team. They are viewing it as positive and exciting as our guests are, which makes it a memorable event for all of us."

Rebuild took months, hundreds of parts

Quassy's Chance train ride back on track following major restoration

AT: Ron Gustafson
Special to Amusement Today

MIDDLEBURY, Conn. — Since being introduced in 1948, it's estimated that more than 10 million park-goers have ridden the rails on the Quassy Express, the miniature train ride at Quassy Amusement & Waterpark here.

The 24-inch gauge track, which runs the perimeter of what is commonly known as the Great Lawn area at the 109-year-old lakefront property, offers guests a leisurely ride under soothing shade trees during some of New England's hot and humid summer days.

Quassy's original ride was from National Amusement Device Co. (NAD) of Dayton, Ohio (1920-1973), known throughout the amusement industry at the time for the manufacture of miniature trains and roller coasters.

The NAD train served Quassy, a regional family-owned park, for three decades and was retired in the fall of 1977, being replaced by a model known as the C.P. Huntington from Chance Rides of Wichita, Kan.

After countless miles and operating hours spanning nearly 40 years, Quassy's C.P. Huntington was, indeed, showing its age at the close of the 2016 season.

"When we got the train into the shop last fall, I thought we were going to just swap out the engine and work on the brakes," recalled Rui DaSilva, the park's maintenance supervisor.

But further examination by the veteran mechanic revealed more work than initially anticipated needed to be done to bring the aging ride back to pristine condition.

"It certainly compounded in a hurry," DaSilva said of the endeavor, which would turn out to be the single largest ride restoration project he has worked on in his 21 years at the property.

Bottom line: Quassy's C.P. Huntington train was about to be rebuilt from the ground up.

Hundreds of parts

Fortunately for the park, Chance Rides continues to provide parts and service for the ride. In fact the manufacturer, which delivered its first C.P. Huntington in 1961, still produces new trains for amusement parks, zoos and other attractions worldwide and is honing in on a milestone: delivery of its 400th unit.

DaSilva dug in for what he termed the "tedious" task of inspecting hundreds of pieces, including wheel bearings, axles, pneumatic brake lines and just about everything in between.

The locomotive (engine) was completely torn down to the frame and decorative electroplated ornaments, including items as small as bolt caps, were sent out to be re-chromed.

"Pulling the engine was extremely difficult as the rusty mounting bolts had to be cut," he said.

During that process the ride's transmission was also dropped and DaSilva discovered the need to rewire all of the electrical.

While waiting for various parts to be delivered, he tackled repainting of the locomotive's cover panels in sparkling red metal flake with trim pieces re-finished in gloss black.

"I wanted something different and attractive," he said of the decision to apply a metallic



After months of tireless work by maintenance supervisor Rui DaSilva (left), Quassy's C.P. Huntington No. 159 is ready to ride the rails again sporting a shiny new metallic red finish. The engine and coaches received a complete rebuild this offseason.
COURTESY QUASSY

**C.P. HUNTINGTON
TRAIN HISTORY —
PAGES 28, 29**

finish.

The transmission was rebuilt by a local firm as were the engine's gear boxes. Two axles had to be replaced, the drive shafts balanced and new gauges installed on the instrument panel.

Fortunately, the park kept a rebuilt gasoline engine for the train in its parts inventory.

"We installed it when the transmission came back in February," he added, while other components were scattered about the maintenance shop awaiting reassembly.

The four-cylinder motor pulled from the ride during the

overhaul will be rebuilt and go back into storage for future use.

Coaches also a challenge

The three coaches on the Quassy Express can carry more than 60 passengers when the attraction is running at capacity.

Each of the passenger cars rest on the tracks by what is known as trucks, which house the axle, wheel and brake assemblies. Each truck also swivels, allowing the train to make turns.

Once the seats were removed, DaSilva was able to inspect the workings of each truck.

Dozens of components were ordered to bring them (trucks) back to like-new condition with the technician replacing bushings, seals, bearings, axles and — basically — the entire brake system.

Welds were all thoroughly checked before the steel framework of each coach headed to the park's paint shop for refinishing. The wood seats were also stripped and re-stained during the five-month process by other members of the maintenance team.

The gratification for DaSil-

► See TRAIN, page 28

FAST FACTS

•**That's a lot of trains:** Quassy's C.P. Huntington train, purchased in 1978 from Chance Rides of Wichita, Kan., is #159 produced, according to records at the manufacturer. Chance will deliver its 400th C.P. Huntington in the near future. During the refurbishing project, Quassy added the number 159 to the locomotive in recognition of the ride's storied history.

•**The little engine that couldn't:** The former National Amusement Device Co. miniature train, which opened at Quassy in 1948, broke down during the height of a season back in the 1970s. George Frantzis II, a park owner, recalled how Quassy staff got creative with a Sears Craftsman lawn tractor by making it "rail ready" in a matter of hours. It successfully towed the passenger coaches around the track until the original engine was repaired. End re-

sult: happy guests instead of a closed attraction.

•**What's under the hood?** Quassy guests, especially the adults, look in wonder at the beautiful C.P. Huntington train while it sits in the station. On occasion a patron will ask "what makes it go?" There's a four-cylinder industrial Ford engine in that baby, and she pulls her weight, 60-plus passengers on many trips, in gold!

•**Tunnel & bridge:** Since making its debut at the park decades ago, the Quassy Express train leaves the station and immediately roars through a tunnel while passing alongside the Fieldside Pavilion. Youngsters scream in delight as the train enters into darkness. In 2011 another exciting element was added to the excursion when Quassy's Wooden Warrior roller coaster opened. The marquee coaster crosses the train tracks twice and when the timing

is right on both rides, they converge at the twin bridge.

•**New Station:** For years the loading platform for the train ride was not covered. In 2015 a wood frame station opened — reminiscent of the train stations of yesterday.

•**I've Been Working On The Railroad:** Each day during the operating season Quassy safety staff thoroughly inspect the train and the 1/3-mile of track on which it runs. The maintenance team then fires up and takes the Quassy Express on a spin to be certain it will be ready to entertain guests that day.

•**Other Chance rides at Quassy:** Chance Rides of Wichita, Kan., has provided other popular rides currently operating at Quassy. They are the Grand Carousel, Yo-Yo super swings and Music Fest.

►TRAIN

Continued from page 27

va came when the park opened in early May and guests were again able to hop aboard the ride.

“I came here as a kid and rode this same train,” he recalled with a smile. “I really like seeing people at the park having fun, especially on the rides.”

From all indications, the Quassy Express is again poised for long haul as the iconic property enters its 109th summer of operation.



Chance Rides C.P. Huntington engine no. 396 is seen in fabrication at the manufacturing facility in Wichita, Kan. The company will soon deliver its 400th train.
COURTESY CHANCE RIDES

The C.P. Huntington name

WICHITA, Kan. – The C.P. Huntington was an actual locomotive built in 1863 by Danforth, Cooke & Company in Paterson, N.J., according to Chance Rides, which today manufactures the one-third scale replica of the train.

In a history piece prepared by the amusement ride company, it is noted that Collis Potter Huntington, an executive with Central Pacific Railroad, pur-

chased two of the engines during the height of the Civil War as portions of the Transcontinental Railroad were taking shape in California.

He transported the two locomotives by ship from New York to San Francisco, a journey that took 131 days, with one of the trains earmarked for Sacramento and the transcontinental project.

► See NAME, page 29

THE LIST: Chance Rides C.P. Huntington train history

CPH ID	Company, Location				
1961		72	Enid Kiwanis Club, Enid, Okla.	145	City of Pratt, Pratt, Kan.
1	Joyland Amusement Company, Inc.,Wichita, Kan.	73	Stricker's Grove, Cincinnati, Ohio	146	Metropolitan Park, Laredo, Texas
2	Story Land Morrell Corp., Glen, N.H.	74	City of Santa Rosa, Santa Rosa, Calif.	147	Wheaton Cultural Alliance, Inc./Wheaton Village, Millville, N.J.
3	National Park Village H.W. Stewart, Inc., Estes Park, Colo.	75	Brevard Zoo, Melbourne, Fla.	148	Sommerland Sjælland, Norre Asmindrup, Denmark
4	Story Land Morrell Corp., Glen, N.H.	76	Kolut Amusements, Fort Mill, S.C.	1977	
5	City of Vancouver, Vancouver, B.C., Canada	77	Pecos Valley, Roswell, N.M.	149	North Carolina Museum of Life and Science, Durham, N.C.
6	Magic World, Inc., West Panama City Beach, Fla.	78	David Fenton, Rockton, Ill.	150	Europa-Park, Baden, Garmany
7	Callaway Park, Calgary, Alb., Canada	79	Lake Winnepesaukah Amusement Park, Chattanooga, Tenn.	151	Balneario Ixtapan S. De R L De C (Import Co.), Portland, Ore.
8	New Orleans City Park, New Orleans, La.	80	Long Island Adventureland, Inc., East Farmingdale, N.Y.	152	Wheeling Park Commission, Wheeling, W. Va.
1962		1970		153	New Orleans City Park, New Orleans, La.
9	African Lion Safari, Cambridge, Ont., Canada	81	Maryland National Capital (Parkland Planning), Rockville, Md.	154	Teleferico San Jacinto S.A., San Salvador, El Salvador
10	Antique Village and Museum, Union, Ill.	82	Hoteles Videfel, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico	1978	
11	Circle M. Corral Family Fun Park, Minocqua, Wisc.	1971		155	-Engine Info Not Available-
12	Noccalula Falls Park, Gadsden, Ala.	83	Beavers Bend Depot, Broken Arrow, Okla.	156	-Engine Info Not Available-
13	J.B. Puddicombe Ltd., Winona, Ont., Canada	84	Lakeside, Inc., Monticello, Ind.	157	Butlin's Holiday Worlds, West Sussex, England
14	Decatur Park District, Decatur, Ill.	85	City of Raleigh, Raleigh, N.C.	158	Wonderland Amusement Park, Amarillo, Texas
15	Magic World, Inc., West Panama City Beach, Fla.	86	Richard Tinsley, High Hill, Mo.	159	Quassy Amusement Park, Middlebury, Conn.
16	Santa's Land, Inc., Cherokee, N.C	87	War Memorial Amusement Park, Little Rock, Ark.	160	Great Adventure (Six Flags Corp.), Jackson, N.J.
17	-Engine Info Not Available-	88	Bartlesville Playground Assn., Bartlesville, Okla.	161	Six Flags New Jersey, Parsippany, N.J.
18	Story Land Morrell Corp., Glen, N.H.	89	-Not Available-	162	City of Kansas City, Kansas City, Mo.
19	City of Roswell, Roswell, N.M.	90	Funtime, U.S.A., Biloxi, Miss.	163	Rocky Point Amusement Corp., Inc., Warwick, R.I.
1963		1972		164	Old Tucson Company, Tucson, Ariz.
20	Folsom Children's Zoo & Botanical Garden, Lincoln, N.E.	91	Ixtrapan, Ixtapan de la Sal, Mexico	1979	
21	City of Brazil, Brazil, Ind.	92	-Not Available-	165	Indianapolis Zoological Society, Inc., Indianapolis, Ind.
22	-Customer Info Not Available-, Chile	93	Richard's Restaurant, Inc./Bearcreek Farms, Bryant, Ind.	166	Chessington (World of Adventures), Chessington, England
23	Gus Milides, Easton, Pa.	94	Erie Zoological Society, Erie, Pa.	167	Pleasurewood Hills American Theme Park, Lowestoft, England
24	Baltimore Zoo (Maryland Zoological Society), Balitmore, Md.	95	(1973) Lake Winnepesaukah Amusement Park, Chattanooga, Tenn.	168	Europa-Park, Baden, Germany
25	Indianapolis Zoologial Society, Inc., Indianapolis, Ind.	96	Bonfonte Gardens, Gilroy, Calif.	169	Europa-Park, Baden, Germany
26	Binder Park Zoological Society, Battle Creek, Mich.	97	City of Raleigh, Raleigh, N.C.	170	Meli Park, Ltd., De Panne, Belgium
27	Old Nevada, Las Vegas, Nev.	98	City of Kansas City, Kansas City, Mo.	171	Europa-Park, Baden, Germany
28	Oaks Amusement Park, Portland, Ore.	99	Land of Make Believe, Hope, N.J.	172	Farup Sommerland, Blokhus, Denmark
1964		1973		173	Europa-Park, Baden, Germany
29	St. Louis Zoological Park, St. Louis. Mo.	100	Indianapolis Zoological Society, Inc., Indianapolis, Ind.	174	Europa-Park, Baden, Germany
30	Chessington Zoo, Chessington, U.K.	101	Forest Park Rides, Inc., Fort Worth, Texas	175	Europa-Park, Baden, Germany
31	Valley West Inc. (Bonfante Gardens), Gilroy, Calif.	102	-Engine Info Not Available-	176	Meli Park, Ltd., De Panne, Belgium
32	Commercial Data, Hubbard, Ohio	103	-Engine Info Not Available-	177	Playcenter Empreedi, Sao Paulo, Brazil
33	Storybook Land, Inc., Egg Harbor Township, N.J.	104	-Engine Info Not Available-	1980	
34	Oil Ranch, Hockley, Texas	105	-Engine Info Not Available-	178	Heritage U.S.A., Fort Mills, S.C.
35	Tourco, Inc., Cedar, Minn.	106	Orixa Diversoes Ltda., Sao Paulo, Brazil	179	W.M. Kelly Enterprises, -Location Not Available-
36	City of Bluefield, Bluefield, W. Va.	107	Aubrey G. Burke & Assoc., New Orleans, La.	180	Mack Duce and Company, Dallas, Texas
37	Deft Communications, Manotick, Ont. Canada	108	Wildlife Prairie Park, Hanna City, Ill.	1981	
38	Village Amusement Company, Absecon, N.J.	109	City of Kansas City, Kansas City, Mo.	181	Exsaco Corp., Alvarado, Texas
39	Timber Village, -Location Not Available-	110	City of Kansas City, Kansas City, Mo.	182	Exsaco Corp., Alvarado, Texas
40	City of Fort Wayne, Fort Wayne, Ind.	111	Rodd Peters, Stockton, Calif.	183	Toshimaen Amusement Park (Midgety Eng.), Tokyo, Japan
41	Hillcrest Park Corp., Lake Zurich, Ill.	112	-Engine Info Not Available-	184	J.M. Romo S.A., Aguascalientes, Mexico
1965		113	-Customer Info not Available-, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands	185	Mack Duce and Company, Dallas, Texas
42	Erie Zoological Society, Erie, Pa.			186	Mifuku, Inc., New York, New York
43	Rawhide 1880's Western Town, Scottsdale, Ariz.	114	New England Science, Stonington, Conn.	1982	
44	Pittsburgh Zoological Society (Pittsburgh Zoo), Pittsburgh, Pa.	115	Jacksonville Zoologiactal Society, Jacksonville, Fla.	187	Hili Fun City, Abu Dhabi, U.A.E.
45	Park Mammoth Resort, Park City, Ky.	116	Heinrich Mack GmbH & Co./Morgan C. Hughes, Germany	188	Mack Duce and Company, Dallas, Texas
46	Tulsa Zoo Friends, Inc., Tulsa, Okla.	117	Jackson Zoological Park, Jackson, Miss.	189	-Engine Info Not Available-
47	Story Land / Morrell Corp., Glen, N.H.	1974		190	Old Tucson Company, Tucson, Ariz.
48	-Not Available-	118	Roeding Park Playland (Rotary Playland), Fresno, Calif.	191	Idlewild Park (Kennywood Park Corp.), Ligonier, Pa.
49	City of Bristol, Bristol, Tenn.	119	White Pines Deer Park, Inc., Oregon, Ill.	192	Adventure Village, Springfield, Ill.
50	Flintstones Bedrock City, Inc., Custer, S.D.	120	Cullman City Park, Cullman, Ala.	193	Toshimaen Amusement Park (Midgety Eng.), Tokyo, Japan
51	City of Des Monies, Des Monies, Iowa	121	Fun Spot of Florida, Vancouver, B.C., Canada *****???	194	Buckhorn Ranch and Lake, Houston, Texas
52	Deer Acres, Inc., Pinconning, Mich.	122	Heinrich Mack GmbH & Co./Morgan C. Hughes, Germany	1983	
1966		123	Dutch Wonderland, Lancaster, Pa.	195	Lakemont, Park, Altoona, Pa.
53	Alabama Coushatta Indian Reservation, Livingston, Texas	124	Shearer/Penn Carousel Village/Indian Walk, Trenton, N.J.	1984	
54	War Memorial Amusement Park, Little Rock, Ark.	125	Hayward Area Recreation and Park District, Hayward, Calif.	196	Radisson Grand Resort, Fort Mill, S. C.
55	Pittsburgh Zoological Society (Pittsburgh Zoo), Pittsburgh, Pa.	126	Santa's Workshop, Cascade, Colo.	197	Lufkin Lions Club/Zoo and Railroad, Lufkin, Texas
56	Fraiser's Frontier. Inc., Irvine, Calif.	127	City of high Point, High Point, N.C.	198	Decatur Park District, Decatur, Ill.
1967		1975		199	Essex County Park, newark, N.J.
57	Western Playland, Inc., El Paso, Texas	128	City of Vancouver, Vancouver, B.C., Canada	200	Nostalgia Town at Pacific Paradise, Queensland, Australia
58	Bland's Park, Inc., Tipton, Pa.	129	Gus H. Boznos Par-King Operating Company, Prairie View, Ill.	201	Fox Valley Parks District/Blackberry Farm, Aurora, Ill.
59	Jenkinson's South, Inc., Point Pleasant Beach, N.J.	130	Russell A. Goodman, Decatur, Ill.	1985	
60	Sauzer's Kiddieland, Inc., Schererville, Ind.	131	Stemaco Products, Inc., Smith Creek, Mich.	202	Adventure Lands of America, Inc., Des Moines, Iowa
61	Biddeford Station, Inc., Biddeford, Maine	132	Niabi Zoological Society, Coal Valley, Ill.	203	City of Louisville, Ky.
62	Fairfax County Park Authority, Fairfax, Va.	133	City of Burlington, Burlington, N.C.	204	The Lambs, Inc. Libertyville, Ill.
1968		134	Group Property Services, Melbourne, Australia	1986	
63	Fleet Construction Co., Inc., Smithfield, R.I.	135	Miracle Strip Amusement Park, Panama City, Fla.	205	Hertage Zoo, Prescott, Ariz.
64	Dogpatch U.S.A., Dogpatch, Ark.	136	Europa-Park, Baden, Germany	206	Dutch Wonderland, Lancaster, Pa.
65	Royal Gorge Company, Canon City, Colo.	137	River City, Kansas City, Kan.	207	(1985) Asian Village -Location Not Available-
66	Santa Barbara Zoological Foundation, Santa Barbara, Calif.	138	(1977) Wheeling Park Commission, Wheeling, W. Va.	208	Santa Barbara Zoological Foundation, Santa Barbara, Calif.
67	River City, U.S.A., Kansas City, Kan.	139	Great Adventure, (Six Flags Corp.), Jackson, N.J.	209	Best Unity Trading, Ltd. -Location Not Available-
1969		140	Wall Herald Corp., Allaire, N.J.	210	E. Baton Rouge, Baton Rouge, La.
68	Utah Zoological Society, Inc., Salt Lake City, Utah	141	Butlin's Holiday Worlds, West Sussex, England	211	City of Louisville, Louisville, Ky.
69	Dogpatch U.S.A., Dogpatch, Ark.	142	Group Property Services, Ltd., Melbourne, Australia	212	Seventh Day Adventists, Silver Spring, Md.
70	Uncle Cliff's Amusement Park, Albuquerque, N.M.	143	Group Property Services, Ltd., Melbourne, Australia		
71	Richmond County Farms, Ltd., Vancouver, B.C., Canada	144	Glendale Forge, Thaxted, Essex, England		

► **NAME**

Continued from page 28

That locomotive was christened the “C.P. Huntington C.P. #3” and became part Central Pacific’s transcontinental construction project in April of 1864.

C.P. #3 carried out a variety of duties until being sold in 1871 to Southern Pacific Railroad and renamed “C.P. Huntington S.P. #1,” the rail line’s first steam locomotive.

The boiler in the C.P. Huntington was last fired up in



1939, according to the Chance Rides documents, and today is the only surviving standard gauge (4-2-4T) locomotive in the nation.

It was fully restored in 1980 and is now on display — since 1981 — at the California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento.

The late Harold Chance,

founder of Chance Manufacturing Co., Inc., designed and constructed the first replica of the train — locomotive and coach — and sold the first unit to Joyland Amusement Park in Wichita in 1961. Today, Chance Rides is nearing the production of C.P. Huntington #400 in the very near future.

—Ron Gustafson



The original C.P. Huntington train used commercially is on display at the California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento. Chance Rides produces locomotives in one-third scale of the original. COURTESY CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

► **CHANCE CPH**

Continued from page 28

213	Heide Park, Soltau, Germany
214	Cleveland Metroparks System, Cleveland, Ohio
1987	
215	Frank Newhall, -Location Not Available-
216	Samsung America, Inc., Ridgefield, N.J.
217	Jaime Benitez, -Location Not Available-
1988	
218	Brackenridge City Park Railroad, San Antonio, Texas
219	Bowcraft, Scotch Plains, N.J.
220	The Great Escape Fun Park, Lake George, N.Y.
221	St. Louis Zoological Park, St. Louis, Mo.
222	War Memorial Amusement Park, Little Rock, Ark.
223	Serengeti Safari Park, Hodenhausen, Germany
224	Wall Herald Corporation, Allaire, N.J.
225	Brackenridge City Park Railroad, San Antonio, Texas
1989	
226	Brackenridge City Park Railroad, San Antonio, Texas
227	Togo Japan, Inc., Tokyo, Japan
228	Togo Japan, Inc., Tokyo, Japan
229	The Animal Park, Inc./The Zoo, Gulf Breeze, Fla.
230	Meisho Company, Ltd., Osaka, Japan
231	Amusement Park of Rome, Rome, Italy
1990	
232	Formosa, -Location Not Available-
233	Shireland, Inc., Marengo, Ill.
234	St. Louis Zoological Park, St. Louis, Mo.
235	Neverland Valley/Michael Jackson, Los Olivos, Calif.
236	Westech, Ltd., Zurich, Switzerland
237	Meisho Company, Ltd., Osaka, Japan
1991	
238	Kawasho International, Tokyo, Japan
239	Kawasho International, Tokyo, Japan
240	3 B Amusements, Inc., -Location Not Available-
241	Darien Lake Theme & Camping Resort, Darien Center, N.Y.
242	Heide Park, Soltau, Germany
243	Idlewild Park (Kennywood Park Corp.), Ligonier, Pa.
244	Europa-Park, Baden, Germany
245	Encanto Amusements, Ltd., Phoenix, Ariz.
1992	
246	Pedroland, Inc., Dillon, S.C.
247	St. Louis Zoological Park, St. Louis, Mo.
248	Vancouver Game Farm, Ltd., Aldergrove, B.C., Canada
249	Williams Grove, Inc., Mechanicsburg, Pa.
1993	
250	A Mini Cathay Co., Ltd., Taipei, Republic of China
251 (1992)	A Mini Cathay Co., Ltd., Taipei, Republic of China
252 (1992)	A Mini Cathay Co., Ltd., Taipei, Republic of China
253	Corp. De Negocios Imobolarios, Chapultepec, Mexico
254	Englewood Lions Club, Englewood, Calif.
255	Promotora Megaterrade Occidenta S.A., Guadalajara, Mexico
256	Kawasho International, Tokyo, Japan
257	Westech, Ltd., Zurich, Switzerland
258	Oakland Zoo, Oakland, Calif.
259	Grupo Empresarial Chapultepec, Veracruz, Mexico
260	Montgomery Zoo, Montgomery, Ala.
261	Jimswood International, Inc. Anaheim, Calif.
1994	
262	City of Kannapolis, N.C.
263	St. Louis Zoological Park, St. Louis, Mo.
264	La Azteca Construction, Sonora, Mexico
265	Okamoto Mfg. Co., Ltd., Osaka, Japan
266	Primadonna Corp./Wiskey Pete's Hotel, Jean, Nev.
267	Primadonna Corp./Wiskey Pete's Hotel, Jean, Nev.
268	Primadonna Corp./Wiskey Pete's Hotel, Jean, Nev.
269	Dunia Fantasi, Jakarta, India
270	Dunia Fantasi, Jakarta, India
271	City of Wichita/Watson Park, Wichita, Kan.
272	City of Kansas City, Kansas City, Mo.
273	New Orleans City Park, New Orleans, La.
274	Kawasho International, Tokyo, Japan
1995	
275	Cabra Cerro, Inc./Austin Zoo (Good Day Ranch), Austin, Texas
276	Tannehill Furnace & Foundry Commission, McCalla, Ala.
277	Zoo Atlanta, Atlanta, Ga.
278	Memphis Zoo & Aquarium, Memphis, Tenn.
279	Toledo Zoological Society, Toledo, Ohio
280	Maryland National Capital Park, Rockville, Md.
281	Maryland National Capital Park, Rockville, Md.
282	Chris Taylor, Olympia, Wash.
283	Clementon Amusement Park, Clementon, N.J.



Chance C. P. Huntington 1960s ad as seen in Amusement Business. COURTESY CHANCE ARCHIVES

284	Alabama Coushatta Indian Reservation, Livingston, Texas
1996	
285	Irvine Park Railroad, Orange, Calif.
286	Samsung America, Inc., Ridgefield, N.J.
287	Agro Land and Cattle Co., Inc., Tucson, Ariz.
288	Diversiones Arias, Guadalajara, Mexico
289	St. Louis Zoological Park, St. Louis, Mo.
290 (1997)	Optimum Creation Sdn., Johor Bahru, Malaysia
291	Frontier City Limited Partnership, Oklahoma City, Okla.
1997	
292	S & T Amusement Co., Inc./Playland, Ocean City, N.J.
293	Lake Compounce, Bristol, Conn.
294	Landry's Amusements, Inc., Houston, Texas
1998	
295	Wild Adventures, Inc., Valdosta, Ga.
296	Marine World Africa, Vallejo, Calif.
297	Columbus Zoo, Powell, Ohio
298	Wild & Freizeitpark, Klotten, Germany
299	St. Louis Zoological Park, St. Louis, Mo.
300	Emins, S.A. DE C.V., San Salvador, El Salvador
1999	
301	City of Kamloops, Kamloops, B.C., Canada
302	Wild Adventures, Valdosta, Ga.
303	St. Louis Zoological Park, St. Louis, Mo.
304	Aberdeen Park, Aberdeen, N.C.
305	East Baton Rouge Parish, Baton Rouge, La.
306	County of Essex/Turtle Back Zoo, Newark, N.J.
307	City of Albany, Albany, Ga.
308	New England Science Center, Worcester, Mass.
2000	
309	Richard Simon, Aventura, Fla.
310	Zoo Atlanta, Atlanta, Ga.
311	A Mini Cathay, Co., Ltd., Taipei, Republic of China
312	Louisville Zoological Garden, Louisville, Ky.
313	Birmingham Zoo Inc., Birmingham, Ala.
2001	
314	General Truck & Equipment, Westminster, Vt.
315	Sandy Lake Amusement Park, Carrollton, Texas
316	Michigan's Adventure, Inc., Muskegon, Mich.
317	Kansas City Zoo, Kansas City, Mo.
318	Oakland Zoo, Oakland, Calif.
319	Folsom Children's Zoo and Botanical Garden, Lincoln, Neb.
2002	
320	Landry's Amusements, Inc., Houston, Texas
321	Landry's Amusements, Inc., Houston, Texas
322	Westchester County/Rye Playland, Rye, N.Y.
323	Toledo Zoological Society, Toledo, Ohio
324	Landry's Amusements, Inc., Houston, Texas
325	Austin Zoo/Cabra Cerro, Inc., Austin, Texas
2003	
326	City of Clinton, Clinton, Okla.
327	Santa Barbara Zoological Foundation, Santa Barbara, Calif.
328	Samsung America, Inc., Ridgefield, N.J.

329	Landry's Amusements, Inc./Kemah Boardwalk, Kemah, Texas
330	Toledo Zoological Society, Toledo, Ohio
331	Blank Park Zoo, Des Moines, Iowa
332	Indianapolis Zoological Society, Inc., Indianapolis, Ind.

2004

333	Oklahoma City Zoo, Oklahoma City, Okla.
334	Cypress Gardens Adventure Park, L.L.C., Valdosta, Ga.
335	Cypress Gardens Adventure Park, L.L.C., Valdosta, Ga.
336	Potawatomi Zoo, South Bend, Ind.
337	Lufkin Lions Club Zoo and Railroad, Lufkin, Texas
338	Montgomery Zoo, Montgomery, Ala.

2005

339	Fox Valley Park District/Blackberry Farm, Aurora, Ill.
340	Transport Museum, St. Louis, Mo.
341	Transport Museum, St. Louis, Mo.
342	Maryland National Capital Park Commission, Rockville, Md.

2006

343	Fairfax County Park Authority, Fairfax, Va.
344 (2007)	Erie Zoological Society, Erie, Pa.
345	Niabi Zoological Society, Coal Valley, Ill.
346	New Orleans City Park, New Orleans, La.

2007

347	North Carolina Museum of Life and Science, Durham, N.C.
348	Lake Compounce, Bristol, Conn.
349	San Antonio Zoo, San Antonio, Texas
350	Memphis Zoo & Aquarium, Memphis, Tenn.

2008

351	Hermann Park Conservancy, Houston, Texas
352	Hermann Park Conservancy, Houston, Texas
353	Virginia Zoological Society, Norfolk, Va.
354	Lake Compounce, Bristol, Conn.
355	Maryland Zoological Society, Baltimore, Md.
356	Birmingham Zoo, Inc., Birmingham, Ala.
357	Maryland National Capital Park Commission, Rockville, Md.
358	Tulsa Zoo Friends, Inc., Tulsa, Okla.

2009

359	Sports Outdoor and Recreation (SOAR), San Antonio, Texas
360	Amusement Park, Ltd., Tel Aviv, Israel

2010

361	East Baton Rouge Zoo, Baton Rouge, La.
362	St. Louis Zoological Park, St. Louis, Mo.
363	Brevard Zoo, Melbourne, Fla.
364	Parks of the St. Lawrence, Morrisburg, Ont., Canada
365	Portsmouth/SE Virginia Comm. Foundation, Portsmouth, Va.

2011

366	Waldameer Park, Inc., Erie, Pa.
367	Columbus Zoo, Powell, Ohio
368	Toledo Zoological Society, Toledo, Ohio
369	Zoo Atlanta, Atlanta, Ga.
370	Waldameer Park, Inc., Erie, Pa.
371	Santa Barbara Zoological Foundation, Santa Barbara, Calif.

2012

372	Cincinnati Zoo, Cincinnati, Ohio
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2013

373	Holiday World, Santa Claus, Ind.
374	Oaks Park, Portland, Ore.

2014

375	Miguel Hidalgo Construction, -Location Not Available-
376	Hogle Zoo, Salt Lake City, Utah
377	Arkansas Zoo, Little Rock, Ark.
378	Maryland National Capital Park and Planning, Annapolis, Md.

2015

379	Cleveland Metroparks System, Cleveland, Ohio
380	Wildlife World Zoo, Litchfield, Ariz.
381	City of Raleigh, Raleigh, N.C.
382	Essex County Park, Newark, N.J.
383	Dickerson Park Zoo, Springfield, Mo.
384	City of St. George, St. George, Utah
385	Landry's Downtown Aquarium, Houston, Texas
386	Landry's Downtown Aquarium, Houston, Texas

2016

387	Sun Land Trading Group, -Location Not Available-
388	Gulf Breeze Zoo, Gulf Breeze, Fla.
389	City of Wichita/Watson Park, Wichita, Kan.
390	Denver Zoo, Denver, Colo.
391	Look Memorial Park, St. Florence, Mass.
2017 (engines still in production)	
392	City of Santa Rosa, Santa Rosa, Calif.
393	North Carolina Museum of Life Science, Durham, N.C.
394	Fox Valley, Aurora, Ill.
395	Ecotarium, Worcester, Mass.
396	Castaway Cove at Playland, Ocean City, N.J.
397	City of High Point, High Point, N.C.

Six Flags unleashes three Joker 4-D Free Spin coasters

S&S Worldwide provides the villainous chaos

AT: Tim Baldwin
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

GRAND PRAIRIE, Texas — Six Flags Entertainment has found favor in one of its proven investments. In 2015, the chain of parks debuted the prototype 4-D Free Spin coaster from S&S Worldwide at its San Antonio theme park. Last year, a sibling followed at the New Jersey property.

A 4-D Free Spin coaster places riders on the outside of the rails on both sides of track constructed on a stacked, vertical plane. Cutting-edge technology using magnetic fins initiates head-over-heels flips throughout the ride. While riding and flipping, there is nothing above or below riders. Engineering went into the design of this genre to ensure that the wild action of the roller coaster would also be comfortable to riders.

"Six Flags has been with us since the very beginning on these rides," said Jason Mons, executive vice president and COO, S&S Worldwide. "It is a really unique experience in a small footprint. It's a ride that changes every time riders go on it, and I think that is something the public looks for. Six Flags has done a great job capitalizing on such a unique ride, and they have been great to work with throughout the process. Since the first one, there have been a few minor tweaks for operational efficiency, but for the overall thrilling ride experience, that hasn't changed."

For the 2017 season, Six Flags has jumped in feet first and has just debuted three new installations.

First up is Six Flags Over Texas (Arlington). For this facility, the new coaster has finally pushed the boundaries of the park into new real estate previously unutilized. Steve Martindale, park president of Six Flags Over Texas, commented that the park had reclaimed the land on the corner of the prop-



erty about 12 years ago.

"The whole thing is really exciting for us as we are creating a new section of the park," Martindale told *Amusement Today*. "It will take place in planned phases that we will continue to develop. As the park grows, we can now offer more capacity for our attractions because we don't have to take something out to add."

The new addition is situated in a Gotham City themed area. A further phase of the area will fill in more space, with indications pointing to 2018.

"It's our 13th coaster, so I think The Joker is a good fit for that number," said Martindale.

Posters, funhouse mirrors and props will adorn the queueing area. While waiting in the queue, guests are entertained by a video wall.

"Joker will be interacting with guests in line," said Sharon Parker, public relations manager. "He will be in his element."

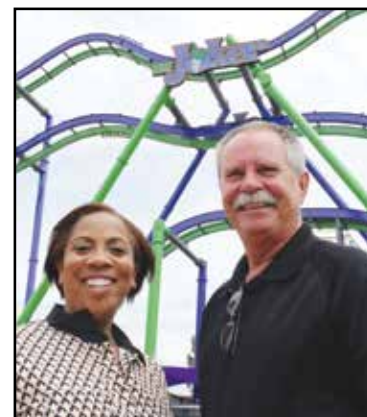
Parker reported a pent-up demand for a new coaster and both the public and news outlets were displaying a high interest in the debut of the coaster. After a few days of season passholder previews, The Joker officially opened on May 20.

One week later, both Six Flags Great America (Gurnee, Ill.) and Six Flags New England (Agawam, Mass.) unveiled similar incarnations over Memorial Day weekend.

At Six Flags Great America, the ride is the park's 14th roller coaster in a world-renowned arsenal of thrillers. "It's our most maniacal coaster to date," said Hank Salemi, park president. "Like the Joker himself, the ride is chaotic and unpre-

PR Manager Sharon Parker and Park President Steve Martindale (right) are excited to see Six Flags Over Texas expand into a new area of real estate. The park is one of three Six Flags properties seeing the installation of The Joker roller coaster.

AT/TIM BALDWIN



Hank Salemi (above), park president of Six Flags Great America, feels The Joker is the park's most maniacal coaster yet — chaotic and unpredictable. John Winkler (below), park president of Six Flags New England, notes The Joker is a key component of the park's biggest year ever.

COURTESY OF SIX FLAGS



dictable. It will take Six Flags Great America's thrill lineup to the next level."

Salemi told *AT* he is pleased with the coaster's location. "Placing The Joker right next to his arch nemesis, Batman The Ride, is the perfect spot for this coaster. The good news is its placement did not change the flow of the park; we were also able to preserve the 42-year-old bridge that connects the area to Mardi Gras," he said.

"Adding The Joker has also given us the opportunity to reinvest in a number of dining and retail locations near the ride, including revamped gift shop and newly a themed Italian restaurant," added Salemi.

At Six Flags New England, The Joker is part of an extensive package for the whole season.

"The 2017 season is a very special year for us," said John Winkler, park president, Six Flags New England. "This year in particular is our largest investment year since we branded in 2000. I am very excited for the momentum and strategies we have in place for this season."

Like Six Flags Great America, the New England property juxtaposes the new coaster

near the Joker's arch rival, Batman Dark Knight, a floorless coaster. To make room for the new installation, a spinning rapids ride was dismantled and retired.

"We are now a four-season operation this year for the first time ever. We offer epic thrills throughout the spring, including launching our 13th coaster here at the park. With Hurricane Harbor anchoring our summer season and Fright Fest in the fall, we will now operate our longest season in our park's history with the new addition of Holiday in the Park. This will be New England's largest holiday celebration offered weekends and select days throughout November and December. I could not be prouder for what we have in store this year," said Winkler.

One of the greatest strengths of the new coasters is the unpredictability of the ride. Passengers sit facing each other for moments of interaction, as well as the opportunity to ride both "sides" of the attraction. This offers four completely different points of view, and when combined with variables such as weight, each ride is different than the one before, intriguing riders to return for another spin.

Powers Great American Midways rolling with new purchases

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FAIRS

WINCHESTER, Va. — Corky Powers, Powers Great American Midways, debuted one of his four new Kolmax Plus S.R.O. rides at the 2017 Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival, that ran April 28-May 7.

Powers purchased four rides from Kolmax Plus in 2016, when the Dutch company first brought rides to exhibit at the International Showmen's Foundation (IISF) convention and trade show in Gibsonton, Fla.

The bumper car ride was the first delivery and that was the ride Powers debuted at the Winchester festival.

"This ride is very portable," Powers said. "It is a great addition to our midway. It is 78 feet wide and 55 feet deep."

The other Kolmax Plus rides he purchased are a tea cup, train, and Dumbo. He expects to receive delivery on two more rides soon, but he expects the Dumbo ride to take a little longer. He said his son, Phil Corl, went to the Kolmax factory to help redesign the folding sides of that ride.

"That will reduce our set-up and tear-down time from one and one-half hours to

one hour," said Powers.

The four Kolmax rides were a big purchase, but Powers didn't stop there in his additions for 2017. He also purchased a KMG Speed and KMG Freak Out.

He bought four new generators from Gull Wing, seven Western Star Semi Tractors, and "miscellaneous stuff to keep the show rolling."

Powers said Denny's Electronics was to be on site in mid-May to install an LED system on his Lamberink Giant Wheel he purchased last year. That was to be at the carnival's second 2017 date at the Exton (Penn.) Square Mall, May 11-21.

From there, they were to move to the Danbury Fair Mall, Danbury, Conn., May 25-June 11, always a very good date for the show, Powers said.

The show moves to one more mall date, at the Poughkeepsie (N.Y.) Galleria, June 15-24, and then into the fair season at the Big Butler Fair, Prospect, Penn., June 30-July 8.

The carnival's last dates are the North Carolina State Fair, Raleigh, Oct. 12-22, and the Cape Fear Fair and Exposition, Wilmington, N.C., Oct. 27-Nov. 5.



Powers Great American Midways debuted its new Kolmax Plus bumper car ride, Chop Shop, at the 2017 Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival, Winchester, Va., April 28-May 7. This ride is just one of four Corky Powers purchased from the Dutch Company. AT/SUE NICHOLS



Nebraska State Fair offices to go solar

GRAND ISLAND, Neb. — Last month, the Nebraska State Fair board approved a deal to add solar panels to the Nebraska building where the fair's administrative offices are located.

The panels will be installed at no-charge to the fair by J-Tech Solar, which has reached a sponsorship deal with the fair to support sustainability programs. The company has offices in Lincoln, Neb., and in Grand Island.

J-Tech officials have estimated it will save the fair a few thousand dollars in utility expenses.

But, according to fair management, the real reason for this is education. The fair has achieved "zero waste" status, and this further shows the commitment to sustainability.

In the announcement by the fair board, Jason Olberding, CEO, J-Tech, said, "Everywhere we go, we get a lot of awareness, a lot of people wanting to know more about solar power, so this will be an opportunity for us to answer questions."

"We'll do live talks and demonstrations throughout the fair to promote solar," he said.

Hopes are to have the panels in soon.

The 2017 Nebraska State Fair will run Aug. 25-Sept. 4. Wade Shows provides the midway.

—Pam Sherborne

All new, Empire State Fair, set for July in Long Island, N.Y.

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EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — A new fair, produced by the State Fair Group, the same group that presents the State Fair Meadowlands, will debut this summer.

The Empire State Fair at Nassau Coliseum will launch July 20-30 on new 25-acre fairgrounds in Long Island, N.Y. Al Dorso, president, State Fair Group, is expecting about 150,000 fairgoers.

"We are gearing our advertising towards that number," Dorso said. "We expect to have over 100 rides and attractions."

James E. Strates Shows will provide the midway with about 40 rides. There will be all the standard fair grounds entertainment, many of which will be at the Meadowlands State Fair, East Rutherford, N.J., held just prior to this fair, June 22-July 9.

Even though the new fair is only about 35 miles away from the Meadowlands event, Dorso said they felt the population in those areas can support another event.

"And, even though it is only 35 miles, it can take anywhere from an hour to four and one-half hours to get there, depending on traffic," he said.

The new fair will not have headlined musical entertainment and will not use the Nassau Coliseum. The grounds are adjacent to the coliseum and uses some of the parking lot there.

The Meadowlands State Fair is held at the Meadowlands Sports Complex in surrounding the MetLife Stadium. Management went to an independent midway several years ago.

"We just felt we weren't getting the variety and number that we really wanted," Dorso said.

Amusements of America brings in 28 to 30 rides. James E. Strates Shows brings in 22 or 23 rides. Dorso said they also will have several other rides booked for the event.

The State Fair Group is a diversified family owned and operated company with roots in the amusement industry dating back to 1920. Dorso said they now have about 20 companies under one umbrella, including both an event division and retail division.

Reithoffer Shows adds new rides, continues to roll

Blue Unit picks up Panhandle South Plains Fair in Lubbock, Texas

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GIBSONTON, Fla. — Major changes have taken place to Reithoffer Shows over the past five years. New rides, new tarps, new routes, and a changeover to LEDs are just some of those changes.

"It all has been really good for us," said Rick Reithoffer, who owns the business along with his brother Pat Reithoffer, the former travels with the Blue Unit and the latter with the Orange Unit. Together, they have a ride arsenal of 100 rides. Their winter quarters is located in Gibsonton.

Looking back on just a few of those years to 2015, Rick Reithoffer added a Zamperla Air Race, which he said, is still the only portable Air Race in the U.S.

That same year, the show implemented a ticketless system called the Smart Card System.

During the middle of the 2016 season, Reithoffer purchased a new Technical Park Galaxy coaster.

"We took delivery of that ride in the middle of last year," Reithoffer said. "Ours is made a little differently from others. I asked that the station be made in two parts."

That way, he said, the cars can be pulled into the station and secured with a special locking system so they won't move during transport. The

FAIRS



station then fits nicely, end to end, on one semi. The scenery is folded down from the roof onto the station.

"We pulled the ride off the boat last year and immediately installed the car locking system for the two parts," he said. "By moving the ride this way, we don't have to lift the cars. We will be able to keep our cars in pristine condition."

Three more semis are used for the remainder of the ride.

Also last year, Reithoffer purchased a new Music Express from Wisdom.

This year he purchased a Zamperla Lollipop ride and outfitted his midway with new tarps from Waterloo Tent and Tarp. Reithoffer debuted the tarps for the Southwest Florida Fair, Fort Myers, Feb. 23-March 5, and at Collier County Fair and Exposition, March 16-26.

In addition, Reithoffer has



Reithoffer Shows showed off some of its new additions this year at the Southwest Florida Fair, Fort Myers, Feb. 23-March 5. Those included a new Zamperla Lollipop ride (above left), a Technical Park Galaxy (above right), which was delivered in the middle of last year, and brand new tarps by Waterloo Tent and Tarp (right). The carnival added a new fair this year as well, the Panhandle South Plains Fair, Lubbock, Texas, Sept. 20-30.

COURTESY
REITHOFFER SHOWS

added a new fair to his Blue Unit, the Panhandle South Plains Fair, Lubbock, Texas, Sept. 9-30.

"Three years ago, the midway contract went out for bid at the New Mexico State Fair



in Albuquerque," Reithoffer said. "We decided to take the chance and see if we could get that fair. We got it and they love our show and we love going out there."

But, it is a 2,000-mile trek out there and back. So, they began to look at other dates to

pick up during their travels. It turned out the show was able to make the Lubbock dates work so adding that fair has been a plus.

"The New Mexico State Fair has been really good for us," he said. "They have a great fair manager, Dan Mourning."

This year the New Mexico State Fair is set for Sept. 7-17.

In addition to all of this, Reithoffer said he has only one ride left before his entire show will be outfitted with LEDs.

"And, LEDs are being installed on that ride right now," he said. "Denny's Electronics is doing that one. My brother has about three-fourths of his rides done."

Reithoffer Shows plays dates in the states of Florida, New York, Maryland, Virginia, Georgia, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, South Carolina, New Mexico and Texas. The last date for Reithoffer's Blue Unit is the National Peanut Festival, Dothan, Ala., Nov. 3-12.

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IAFE president has good vibe for 2017 fair season

AT: Pam Sherborne
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SPRINGFIELD, Mo. — By the first of this month, all specialty meetings and zone meetings of the International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE) will have taken place and, from early expectations and indicators, fair management is encouraged for good things to come in 2017.

And that's good news for everyone involved in producing fairs as well as festivals, including all fair staff and those charity groups that benefit from those events, carnivals that provide the midway, and all other vendors.



Early fairs such as the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo set a record attendance this year drawing 2,611,176 visitors. Guy Leavitt, owner, Ray Cammack Shows, the midway provider for the show, said his company recorded its best year as well.

Marla Calico, president, IAFE, said the association's membership seems very op-



Marla Calico

timistic for a good 2017 fair season.

"Of course, expectations and reality can change in a minute when the weather is the number one determining factor in a fair's final outcome," Calico said.

Here, Calico answers other questions for AT:

Early fairs have had some record turnouts. Have they been encouraging for the season as a whole?

Any reports of record attendance can serve as a positive harbinger for the fairs to be held later in the year. But, again, but weather is ultimately the primary factor impacting attendance.

What are some of the concerns and focuses of fair managers for this year?

Security of the fair guests remains a top concern. Understanding how to better utilize digital technologies, especially social media, is of great interest.

And, it seems the year started with greater concern about the impact animal rights activists, as well

FAIRS

as other social activists, can have on fairs.

To that end, the IAFE will be providing to its member the Activist Response Kit. This will be released in digital version in early June and later in the year in print format. A new section of the IAFE's On-Line Library will have a supplemental section with additional resources (we anticipate on-going additions to this over time).

In addition, we will launch new training for members. First up will be a series of CyberSeminars (webinars) on crisis communication and using social media for advocacy. The exact schedule will be announced before the end of this month, but generally there will be six webinars between early June and mid-August.

Second, we are confirming participants in our Speakers Bureau, a program by which we make available educational programming to the various state and provincial associations of our memberships. We expect to have at least one or two in that group that will deliver additional training on dealing with activists.

Have any trends already been apparent for 2017?

This is a tough question to answer because it is typically at year-end when we gather at our annual convention that we hear from members about anything like this.

With regard to "technology," the impact of social me-



The IAFE Education Foundation makes available educational programming at all Zone meetings, each a course of the IAFE's Institute of Fair Management. The sponsorship training course presented by Jen Puente, director of marketing and partnerships, Wisconsin State Fair, West Allis, was highly popular at the 2017 series of Zone meetings. COURTESY IAFE



After a group session on crisis communications at the IAFE Management Conference, April 25-28 in Spokane, Wash., several delegates participated in a mock television interview session. Here, they watched the critique. COURTESY IAFE

dia and the use of social media is of keen interest (and a necessity) right now.

Additionally, the ability to sell tickets on-line in advance as well as advanced ticketing technology use at the gates is of great interest.

And, of course, those fairs with concert venues (fair use only as well as year-round) are particularly concerned with third-party re-sellers and the negative impacts for their guests that can result.

Has the IAFE created any new forms of education, etc., to address any type of growing concerns fairs are facing?

We continually seek to provide the best speakers at our meetings as well as explore additional ways of utilizing digital delivery, whether live or recorded.

Any new IAFE seminars?

We do not have plans to change our meetings model for the foreseeable future. We offer the annual convention/trade show, a management conference, the Summit (for Institute of Fair Management enrollees only) and a specialty seminar (the topic or focus of which rotates every three years).

In 2017 that was "Impact & Impressions" (for advertising, public relations and sponsorships), held in San Antonio, Texas, in February.

For 2018 the topic will be "T3: Trades-Treats-Traditions" (commercial exhibits, concessions and competitive exhibits), the date/location will be announced very soon, and in 2019 it will be "Tools of the Trade" (agriculture, non-fair facility rentals, plant/facility operations).

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MIDWAYLIGHTS

COMPILED: Pam Sherborne

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The **Washington County Fair** board, Greenwich, N.Y., and the Washington County government may partner on a project to demolish several buildings and replace them at the fairgrounds.

The first aid building is far too small for the growing fair, according to fair General Manager **Mark St. Jacques**. He also wants to consider better uses for the two-car garage at which the county sheriff's office puts on a display during the fair. There is a third building in need of repairs as well.

County supervisors are generally supportive, particularly since the fair board is willing to put money toward the joint project. They said they would welcome having more room at the fair.

But, first up is to deal with the legal issues. Both sides are searching for documentation proving ownership of the buildings and the land. They believe the county owns those three buildings and the nonprofit fair organization owns the land. They must first determine that and set up a legal contract allowing the fair to use the buildings. Then they will begin discussing improvements on the buildings.

Other improvements the fair manager would like to see is to update the bathrooms as well as the septic systems. His biggest desire, however, is a new first aid building. There's only enough room in there for one bed.

During the fair, there are usually a couple of ambulances outside, which could provide additional space for emergency treatment. But as the fair has grown in popularity, the Department of Health has been pushing him to make more space for first aid.

St. Jacques agrees with the concerns.

"If you are lying in that little building on the bed and you had to take your clothes off, you're right by the door. There's no privacy," he was quoted as saying.

Amusements of America provides the midway for the Washington County Fair, which is set this year for Aug. 21-27.

The famous arch at the **Oklahoma State Fairgrounds**, Oklahoma City, was destroyed last month during a heavy storm.

Scott Munz, Oklahoma State Fairgrounds spokesperson, said the arch east of the needle at the park was knocked down in high winds. A cell tower also was knocked down at the fair park. The storms knocked out power to the park and over 40,000 Oklahomans.

Munz reports that the roofs of several buildings also suffered damage during the storm.

Approximately 2,000 horses were at the fairgrounds for a barrel racing event, but no animals or persons were injured.

This year's **Oklahoma State Fair** will run Sept. 14-24. **Wade Shows** provides the midway.

The **San Diego County Fair**, Del Mar, Calif., is fast approaching, and with it will come more than 600 job openings. The San Diego County Fair opens to the public at 4 p.m. on June 2 and runs through July 4. The fair is closed the

first four Mondays and first three Tuesdays. This year's fair theme is "Where the West is Fun!"

Fair organizers last month were looking for applicants to fill the numerous positions such as parking director and cashier, fair ambassador, security guard, and exhibit staff positions among the open jobs.

"The San Diego County Fair is a fun, high-energy working environment, and this year wearing a cowboy hat and jeans will be the standard," the job announcement read. "Typically, 60 percent of seasonal staff returns year after year, many people returning for 20 years or more. But there are more than 600 seasonal positions available and plenty of room for first-timers."

The San Diego County Fair has an independent midway.

Michelle Grigore has accepted employment with the **Wood County Agricultural Society**, Bowling Green, Ohio, as its manager/secretary, it was announced last month. She will begin her role on June 5, as she prepares to succeed **Dick King**, whose resignation was accepted earlier this year. His tenure will end in November.

Grigore, who currently serves with the **Metroparks of the Toledo** (Ohio) area, was previously the director of the **Bowling Green Parks and Recreation Department**.

Grigore was described as an executive director with 29 years nonprofit and government business experience including leading a complex organization with multiple governing bodies, intricate partnerships, and diverse stakeholders.

The 2017 dates for the fair are July 31-Aug. 7.

For the first time in its history, the **California Mid-State Fair**, Paso Robles, July 19-30, will present the California Mid-State Fair Strongest Man & Woman Competition, which will take place on the last day of the fair.

The competition will feature some of the strongest athletes from all throughout the state of California and across the U.S. Competitors will have the opportunity to put their brute strength on display for all fair-goers in attendance. There will be a total of six weight classes consisting of Men's and Women's Lightweight, Middleweight and Heavyweight divisions. The number of competitors are capped at 30.

Davis Enterprises is the midway provider at the California Mid-State Fair.

Wisconsin State Fair, West Allis, officials announced a variety of deals and discounts that went on sale at the first of May for the fair set August 3-13. Fairgoers who plan ahead can save 50 percent adult fair admission through July 31, with \$6 tickets available online, at the ticket office, and some local businesses.

A 50 percent discount also was being offered for ride and game tickets through July — \$20 for 40 ride and game vouchers. Wristband vouchers were available for \$35. The Wisconsin State Fair has an independent midway.

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Legoland Florida expands resort offerings with Beach Retreat

AT: Tim Baldwin
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WINTER HAVEN, Fla. — Since April 7, more guests than ever can now stay on property at the **Legoland Florida Resort**. In contrast to the five-story **Legoland Hotel** already on property, the new **Beach Retreat** is village-style featuring 83 bungalows that offer a total of 166 new rooms. The bungalows are brightly colored typical of Lego bricks themselves and grouped into 13 sections. Each section is named after a popular Lego Minifigure character such as Ocean King, Sea Captain and Shark Suit Guy. In the center of each neighborhood is an outdoor play structure in the grass. Parents can be seated in the front porches of the bungalows watching the kids.

"The hotel is a structured indoor experience," says **David Brady**, public relations manager for Legoland Florida Resort. "We have a lot of entertainment and activities in the lobby. There's a brick pit and a classroom space to learn from master model builders. Beach Retreat is consciously meant to be more of a fun-in the sun, toes in the sand experience."

Water is significant to the new resort offering with a focus on a beach atmosphere. Picturesque views of Lake Dexter are found throughout. Beach Retreat features the largest themed pool on the resort's property. There, guests find a large sandy play area that kids will particularly find engaging. Poolside activities are also scheduled.

"It's almost like a fantasy beach," joked Brady. "Every-



Legoland Florida's new Beach Retreat offers the classic summer vacation ambience with an emphasis on water. Thematic details such as a lighthouse and water activities including a heated pool bring the fun of the ocean to the comfort of vacation accommodations.

COURTESY
LEGO LAND FLORIDA



one romanticizes the ocean, but then you get there and it's cold and there is seaweed. But here you have a heated pool, a giant play structure and pristine sand. We have rentable cabanas and poolside bar



surface. It takes out all the irritations of trekking out to the beach. It's meant to be that classic summer vacation."

Brady realizes the Central Florida climate makes this resort expansion a possibility

where most of the other Legoland properties cannot.

One of the iconic features of the new village is The Lighthouse. This tower stands more than 45 feet tall. It contains a restaurant, pool

bar and a giant sandcastle-themed Lego building area. A full buffet breakfast is included with each stay. The restaurant is also open for lunch and dinner and seats 300 guests.

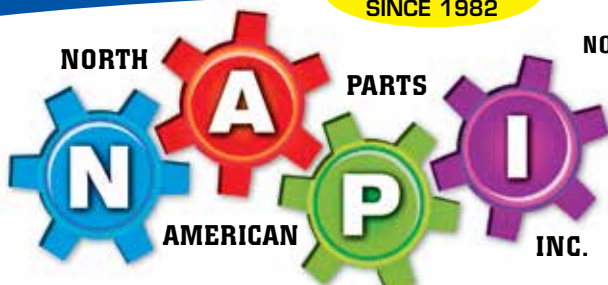
"It's a much more expansive footprint in terms of how spread apart it is. The demand was there. The hotel performed much better than projected. We saw right away that we needed more. We are hoping that people who stayed with us before will now want to try out the Beach Retreat. By design it is a different kind of vacation."

The Beach Retreat resides about a half mile from the theme park. The beautiful setting provides the atmosphere the resort was seeking, but was never part of the **Cypress Gardens** property. (Legoland Florida exists on the former Cypress Gardens parkland and has a specific themed area dedicated to Cypress Gardens.) Legoland allows those guests staying at the Beach Retreat to be able to park complementary at Legoland and shuttle service is also in play. While walkable via a clear path, Beach Retreat guests can decide which transportation option to the theme park suits them best.

"We tested several themes for the village concept. The beach theme was the most popular by far," Brady told *Amusement Today*. "It's a mixture of all classic beach types. You've got a lighthouse harbor type beach with a surf-type beach...it's not meant to represent one geographical area. It's more like a fantasy beach the way a child would play. They would mix all these elements together."

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OBITUARIES

Longtime Wilson County Fair President Hale Moss dies at 68

LEBANON, Tenn. — **Hale Moss**, 68, longtime president, **Wilson County Fair**, Lebanon, Tenn., and prominent Mt. Juliet, Tenn., business owner, passed away on April 17.

Moss was president of the Wilson County Fair every year except one since 1979. The fair has drawn more than 400,000 nine straight years, according to officials, and more than 500,000 in five of those years.

"Hale has left behind a great legacy in what he did to develop the Wilson County Fair from 1979 to the present and what he's done for fairs throughout Tennessee and the United States," said **Randall Clemons**, treasurer, **Wilson County Promotions**, the entity that produces the fair. "He had a great passion for the fair."

Wilson County Mayor **Randall Hutto** called Moss a pioneer, taking a love of agriculture as a teacher and businessman to the Wilson County Fair.

"It was his way of taking agriculture to all our citizens and having a good time with it," Hutto said. "He would say he always wanted kids to know chocolate milk didn't come from a brown cow...He wanted people to know where food came from."

Hale was a 1966 graduate of Mt. Juliet (Tenn.) High School. He was active in 4-H and showed beef steers and heifers for many years on the county and state level. In high school, Hale became very involved in FFA, where he served on many judging teams and held offices, including president.

In 1966, he was state FFA president and continued to serve many committees as an FFA alumnus.

Hale entered the University of Tennessee at Knoxville to pursue a degree in agricultural edu-

cation and animal science. While at UT, Hale was a member of Professor E.R. Lidvall's livestock judging team and was the high scoring individual at the Southeastern Collegiate Livestock Judging Contest at the University of Georgia in 1969.

After teaching for four years, he accepted an appointment with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture as director of fairs and livestock shows. He served as the beef cattle superintendent of Tennessee State Fair Advisory Board from 1977 to 2005.

Moss also was a local businessman. He managed his family's business, Moss Brothers Seed Co. earlier in his career. Then, along with his wife, mother and aunt, opened Moss' Florist and Garden Center. He continued to work there for 39 years until his retirement in 2016.

Hale was always quick to point out that the continued growth and success of the Wilson County Fair is due to the passion and commitment of the 300 volunteer fair board members and the uncountable committee members.

In 2011, the Hale Moss Livestock Scholarship was established to recognize a college-bound young person who has exhibited his or her livestock at the Wilson County Fair.

He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Brenda Horton Moss; son, Joe (Lauren) Moss; sister, Susan (David) Owen; and nieces and nephews, Jay (Whitney) Owen, Reid (Krystal) Owen, Caroline Owen, Jimmy "Bubba" (Shonna) Horton, Pam Trent, Jonathan (Summer) Horton, Matthew Garrett, J.O. Garrett, Josh (Brandi) Dickson and Katie Dickson.

Services for Moss were held at the **Wilson County Expo Center** in Lebanon on April 24.

Memorials may be made to the **Wilson County Agriculture Hall of Fame** at 925 E. Bad-dour Pkwy., Suite 101, Lebanon, Tenn. 37087 or **Fiddlers Grove** at P.O. Box 1203, Lebanon, Tenn. 37088.



Moss

Ben Combs of SkyTrans Manufacturing passes at 18

Benjamin Paul Combs, age 18, of Farmington, N.H., passed on May 4, 2017, after suffering from severe depression. He will be remembered and celebrated as the everlasting joy of his family's life and for his loving kindness and thoughtfulness to friends and family.

His brilliant intelligence and wonderful sense of humor endeared him to all. Ben was a self-motivated learner with knowledge beyond his years of facts, people, and life.

He listened to classical music, symphony orchestra, and Frank Sinatra. His interests through the years ranged from karate, aviation, archery, history, travel, and cooking to camping/hiking, Pokémon Go, superheroes, video games, and movies. He also loved to play mini golf and board games (especially Monopoly) and was an avid reader of comic books and major novels. Most recently he enjoyed building Legos and complex jigsaw puzzles.

Ben was close to all of nature and exhibited a special fondness for cats everywhere. He

hiked 20 of the 48 New Hampshire mountains in the 4000-Footer Club.

When depression was not overwhelming him, Ben had been at the top of his class academically. In the last year, he was employed at **SkyTrans Manufacturing**, where he learned to clean and test grips for ski lifts, sandblasting, forklift operations, and flame cutting. This winter, he worked with his father as part of the team to finish the Green Peak chairlift at **Water-ville Valley**, making his father forever proud of him.

His inner quiet reflective nature did not begin to reveal his true self or the persistent courage he had as a young man.

Services were held at First United Methodist Church, 34 South Main Street, Rochester, N.H. on Friday, May 12th.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be given in Ben's memory to the American Association of Suicide Prevention: <http://afsp.donordrive.com/campaign/bencombsmemorialfund>

PEOPLE WATCH

Martin & Vleminckx adds to sales team

Martin & Vleminckx Rides Companies (MVR) recently announced two additions to its sales team. Our growth the past few years and awareness of the wood coaster projects MVR has been delivered with exciting inverted elements has created the need to not only add sales personnel, but the most qualified industry members to the team.

The Americas, North, South and Canada will now be managed by **Gina Romano** who holds the position of vice president of marketing and sales, the Americas. In addition to the pursuit of MVR wood coaster sales, Gina will handle the core business of MVR from its beginning; the installation, dismantling, moving, repair and maintenance of any amusement attraction.

Romano was raised in a family operated park, **Nellie Bly Park** in Brooklyn, N.Y. She is a graduate in Commercial Design from Pratt Institute and holds a Masters in Education from NYU. After an early life spent in ride operations, food service, grounds keeping, safety, maintenance, and marketing, she became the general manager of the park in 1986.

Her love of the business led her to be involved in the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions where in 1997 she became the first woman president of the association.

Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and Eastern bloc countries will now be managed jointly by **Eckart Schultz** who holds the position of European representative and **Chuck Bingham**, senior vice president of marketing & sales for MVR.

Eckart worked part time in the industry as a teen and joined the amusement industry full time in 1969 with an electrical engineering qualification. He joined **Becher Company** in Germany who supplied ride systems to the amusement industry. In a very short four years, Eckart was serving as a consultant to such major parks as **Liseberg Park** in Sweden and **Phantasialand** in Germany. Since this early success, Eckart was general manager of **Reino Aventura**, Mexico City, and in various other positions for Middle East and European parks.

In 1994, Eckart became the sales director for **Vekoma Rides** and has been active with sales in this area ever since with Vekoma, **S&S** and other notable suppliers. Eckart has established a relationship with most parks in this territory, as well as with park designers around the world. His park operations experience brings expertise to both purchaser as well as the park planner.

Gold Medal adds new VP

CINCINNATI, Ohio — **Gold Medal Products Co.**, a leading manufacturer and distributor of concession food equipment and supplies, recently announced **Andy Shang** as the company's vice president of engineering.

A dedicated engineering professional, Shang has nearly two decades of leadership roles within the manufacturing industry. Most recently, he served as Director of Quality and Engineering with **Henny Penny**, a manufacturer of foodservice equipment. At Gold Medal, he will lead, develop and direct the engineering and technical teams. With a disciplined approach to ensuring best practices, his responsibilities will include new product development, product engineering and quality processes.

"It's exciting to join a company with both a rich legacy of success and an extremely promising outlook for the future. I look forward to applying my knowledge and experience to help Gold Medal develop products and technology that will shape the concession foods industry," says Shang.

President **Adam Browning** welcomes Shang stating, "Throughout Andy's career, he has consistently delivered results. He brings fresh analytical insights and an energetic perspective into our engineering operations, which will fuel future innovations. We are fortunate to have Andy on the Gold Medal team."

Lovato joins The Capital Wheel

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. — **The Capital Wheel at National Harbor** announces the appointment of theme park industry veteran **Derek Lovato** as its new vice president and general manager. Lovato joins The Capital Wheel with nearly two decades of retail and amusement industry experience including positions with three of the largest regional theme park operators in the world.

The Capital Wheel opened at National Harbor in 2014 offering guests thrilling views of the Washington, D.C. area from 180 feet above the Potomac River. Seated in climate-controlled gondolas, passengers enjoy an exciting ride while onlookers delight in the multi-color display created by more than 1.6 million fully programmable LED lights.

"I am extremely happy to join The Capital Wheel team and be part of the excitement at National Harbor," said Lovato. "We're making plans for new events, special offers, and a dynamic space for group celebrations. The view from The Capital Wheel is stunning and there really is no better place in the [DC, Maryland, Virginia] to watch the sun set with family and friends."

MARKETWATCH



COMPANY	SYMBOL	MARKET	PRICE 05/11/17	HIGH 52-Week	LOW 52-Week
The Blackstone Group	BX	NYSE	30.00	31.69	22.45
Merlin Entertainments Group/ Legoland	MERL	LSE	500.00	515.50	316.79
Cedar Fair, L.P.	FUN	NYSE	69.58	72.56	56.17
Comcast Corp./ NBCUniversal Media	CMCSA	NASDAQ	39.26	40.62	29.8
The Walt Disney Company	DIS	NYSE	109.58	116.10	90.31
Dubai Parks & Resorts	DXBE:UH	DFM	0.90	1.77	0.9
EPR Properties	EPR	NYSE	70.07	84.67	65.50
Fuji Kyoko Co., Ltd.	9010	TYO	1078.00	1506.00	950.00
Haicahang Holdings Ltd.	HK:2255	SEHK	1.73	1.95	1.52
Leofoo Development Co.	TW:2705	TSEC	8.04	9.00	6.62
MGM Resorts International	MGM	NYSE	30.98	31.32	21.31
Parques Reunidos Servicios Centrales S.A.	ES:PQR	MCE	16.00	17.41	11.99
SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc.	SEAS	NYSE	18.79	20.13	11.77
Six Flags Entertainment Co.	SIX	NYSE	62.63	65.19	47.61
Skyocean International	HK:0593	SEHK	15.00	17.4	7.95
Tivoli A/S	DK:TIV	CSE	655.00	676.00	411.00
Village Roadshow	VRL	ASX	3.50	5.57	3.22

STOCK PRICES ABOVE ARE GENERALLY QUOTED IN THE FOREIGN CURRENCY IN WHICH THE COMPANY IS LOCATED

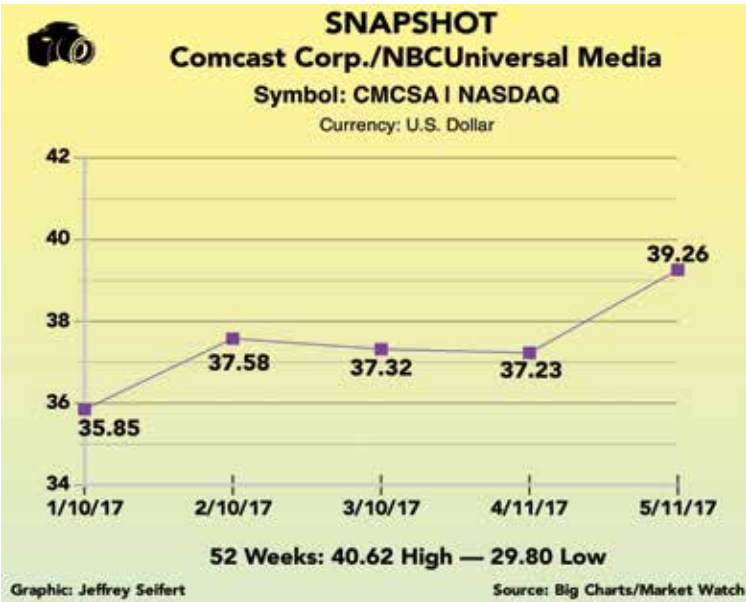
Worldwide Markets: **ASX**, Australian Securities Exchange; **CSE**, Copenhagen Stock Exchange; **LSE**, London Stock Exchange; **NYSE**, New York Stock Exchange; **NASDAQ**, National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotations; **SEHK**, Hong Kong Stock Exchange; **SZSE**, Shenzhen Stock Exchange; **TSEC**, Taiwan Stock Exchange, Corp.; **TYO/TSE**, Tokyo Stock Exchange
—SOURCES: Bloomberg.com; Wall Street Journal

DIESEL PRICES

Region (U.S.)	As of 05/08/17	Change from 1 year ago
East Coast	\$2.612	+\$0.303
Midwest	\$2.497	+\$0.256
Gulf Coast	\$2.410	+\$0.279
Mountain	\$2.651	+\$0.374
West Coast	\$2.747	+\$0.379
California	\$2.927	+\$0.333

CURRENCY

On 05/12/17 \$1 USD =	
0.9199	EURO
0.7745	GBP (British Pound)
114.06	JPY (Japanese Yen)
1.0079	CHF (Swiss Franc)
1.3579	AUD (Australian Dollar)
1.3709	CAD (Canadian Dollar)



BUSINESS WATCH

SeaWorld Ent. reports Q1 2017 results

ORLANDO, Fla. — **SeaWorld Entertainment, Inc.** (NYSE: SEAS), reported on May 9, 2017, its financial results for the first quarter of 2017. A quick overview states: total revenues were \$186.4 million, compared to \$220.2 million in the first quarter of 2016, primarily due to a shift in the timing of the Easter holiday into the second quarter of 2017 which also impacted the timing of spring break for a number of schools; year-to-date attendance through the end of April is essentially flat over the prior year period; exciting lineup of new attractions coming online in the second quarter; season pass sales revenues are up nearly 6 percent through the end of April compared to the same period of 2016; the company remains on pace to achieve its cost optimization program net cost savings targets for the year and for the full year of 2017; the company expects Adjusted EBITDA in the range of \$330 million to \$360 million.

In a related note, on May 8 it was announced that Beijing, China-based **Zhong-hong Zhuoye Group, Co., Ltd.**, has completed its previously announced acquisition of approximately 21 percent equity interest in SeaWorld Entertainment.

Disney reports profits up, ESPN drives revenues down

BURBANK, Calif. — **The Walt Disney Company** announced on May 9 that profits topped expectations, but revenues fell short of forecasts amid continued weakness at **ESPN**. The media giant said it earned \$1.50 in adjusted earnings per share during its fiscal second quarter, and \$13.3 billion in revenue. Analysts had forecast that Disney would report \$1.41 in adjusted EPS and revenue totaling \$13.45 billion, according to Bloomberg. Revenues from **Disney's Parks and Resorts** increased by 9% to \$4.3 billion, helped by **Shanghai Disney Resort**.

Cedar Fair reports Q1 2017 results

SANDUSKY, Ohio — **Cedar Fair Entertainment Company** (NYSE: FUN), announced on May 3 results for the first quarter ended March 26, 2017. Cedar Fair's net revenues decreased to \$48 million, compared with \$58 million in the first quarter ended March 27, 2016. The decrease was primarily driven by the timing shift of the Easter and spring break holidays which occurred in the second quarter of 2017 compared with a meaningful portion of these events that occurred in the first quarter of 2016 and a decline in first-quarter attendance due to drought-correcting rains in California. Operating costs and expenses for the first quarter of 2017 were \$117 million, comparable with the prior-year quarter, and were also in line with the company's expectations. The net loss for the quarter totaled \$65 million, or \$1.16 per diluted LP unit, compared with a net loss of \$48 million, or \$0.87 per diluted LP unit, for the first quarter a year ago.

Comcast announces earnings, quarterly revenue

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. — **Comcast Corp.** (NASDAQ:CMCSA), posted its first quarter fiscal 2017 results on April 27, 2017. For the three months that ended March 31, 2017, Comcast's consolidated revenue increased 8.9 percent to \$20.46 billion compared to revenue of \$18.79 billion in Q1 2016. The company's revenue numbers surpassed analysts' consensus of \$20.12 billion. For Q1 2017, Comcast's consolidated adjusted EBITDA increased 10.4 percent to \$7.0 billion.

For Q1 2017, **NBCUniversal's Theme Parks** section reported revenue of \$1.12 billion, up 9.0 percent on a year-over-year basis, reflecting higher attendance and per capita spending, despite an unfavorable comparison from the timing of spring break vacations. The sub-segment's adjusted EBITDA increased 6.1 percent to \$397 million in the reported quarter, reflecting higher revenue, partially offset by an increase in operating expenses, including pre-opening costs to support new attractions opening in Orlando.

Topgolf partners for 10 venues in Mexico

DALLAS, Texas — Global sports entertainment leader **Topgolf** announced on April 24, 2017, that it will license its concept exclusively in Mexico to **Ventura Entertainment**, which plans to open 10 venues during the next eight years. The partnership marks Topgolf's first joint venture in North America.

The first Mexico venues are being planned for Mexico City and Cancun, with expected openings in 2018. Topgolf and Ventura Entertainment are also exploring potential locations in other parts of Mexico City, Monterrey and Guadalajara, among others.

Ventura's **Fernando Castillo** said, "We are excited to join forces with one of the fastest growing sports entertainment companies worldwide and humbled by the trust Topgolf has put in us to develop Topgolf throughout Mexico. Our new partner has done an incredible job in creating this innovative concept that has disrupted the sport of golf and the family entertainment industry."

In Brief...

•DALLAS, Texas — Dallas-based **Main Event Entertainment**, a bowling-anchored dining and entertainment center chain, opened its fifth location in the Houston (Humble), Texas area, and opened its first location in Pittsburgh, Pa. on May 2. Both centers are the latest of seven Main Event centers set to open across the nation this year.

•PLEASANTON, Calif. — California-based **Rockin' Jump** announced on April 26, 2017, the addition of **Airbound Trampoline** parks in Winston-Salem and Greensboro, North Carolina, to the Rockin' Jump family, bringing the number of parks under the Rockin' Jump name to 43 parks.

•TORONTO, Canada — Toronto-based **Cineplex, Inc.** (TSX: CGX), announced on April 18, 2017, its cash dividend of \$0.1350 per share for the month of April 2017 was payable on May 31, 2017, to shareholders of record on April 28, 2017.

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For Cedar Fair, committed maintenance extends to environment

Renewable energy,
pollution awareness
draw company focus

AT: Dean Lamanna
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SANTA CLARA, Calif. — "Higher" and "faster" are the usual adjectives associated with the parks owned and operated by Sandusky, Ohio-based **Cedar Fair Entertainment**. But recently, the company has made an increasing effort to play up another word at its properties: "Greener."

In time for Earth Day on April 22, **California's Great America** (CGA) in Santa Clara and local utility **Silicon Valley Power** (SVP) jointly announced that the 100-acre park will cover all of its electricity use with renewable energy through the Santa Clara Green Power program, which allows businesses and residents to purchase 100 percent solar and wind energy.

CGA's commitment — representing 12,810 megawatt-hours annually — makes it one of the largest renewable energy purchasers in the program. The purchase is similar to the output of four large-scale wind turbines, reducing the park's carbon footprint from electricity use by over seven million pounds of carbon dioxide each year.

CGA is the first Northern California amusement park to make this voluntary commitment, according to SVP. Park representatives see it as a way to strengthen the community.

"California's Great America is proud to partner with Silicon Valley Power and is committed to doing its part to



better the environment," said **Raul Rehnberg**, park vice president and general manager. "It is important for us to reduce our carbon footprint and join the growing number of local businesses that embrace the importance of renewable energy."

CGA has joined a growing circle of large businesses in Santa Clara that support renewable energy, including the city itself and Santa Clara University. In addition, more than

Earth Day by *The Plain Dealer*, a daily newspaper based in Cleveland, Ouimet indicated that he has joined other leaders in the northwest Ohio business community to press government officials to do more to control pollution in the lake.

"I have a platform because of what Cedar Point means to Ohio," Ouimet said. "Maybe we can amplify the voice. Maybe we can be effective advocates and educators."

While all of the company's parks have some basic green practices in place, Ouimet offered no specifics on what additional conservation-minded measures might be undertaken at Cedar Point. Lake Erie has seen toxic algae blooms, fueled by fertilizers and other

"I have a platform because of what Cedar Point means to Ohio. Maybe we can amplify the voice. Maybe we can be effective advocates and educators."

—Matt Ouimet, Cedar Fair president and CEO on the health of Lake Erie



Ouimet

70 small businesses and 4,000 households have committed to purchasing 100 percent renewable energy through SVP.

In Ohio, meanwhile, **Matt Ouimet**, Cedar Fair's president and CEO since 2012, has become more vocal in expressing his concern about the health of Lake Erie. The company's home park and resort, Cedar Point, sits on a partially beach-lined peninsula in the lake.

In an article published on

chemicals in rural and urban runoff along its shores, to varying degrees over the years.

"This is our problem to solve," said Ouimet. "Not me personally, but my generation."

"We're not looking for an overnight solution. There's nothing important that gets done without some form of compromise on all sides."

In other Cedar Point news, the park — like other properties in the Cedar Fair portfolio — has installed metal detectors outside its gate. The new security measure was in place in time for the park's May 6 season opening.

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Kansas ride safety bill signed into law

TOPEKA, Kan. — According to a recent IAAPA safety bulletin, Senate Bill 70 (SB70), a bill that strengthens Kansas' amusement ride safety regulations, was signed into law on April 24 by Kansas Governor **Sam Brownback**.

IAAPA strongly supports effective amusement ride safety regulation enacted by the states. The association applauds the Kansas legislature for passing SB70, and it is appreciative of the opportunity to provide information on globally recognized safety standards and best practices. IAAPA also recognizes the work of Rep. **John Whitmer** (R-93), whose

experience in the amusement industry was instrumental in helping to improve the legislation.

The legislation makes improvements to the state's regulation of amusement rides in several areas, including permitting, registration, fees collected, injury reporting, insurance, requirements for qualified inspectors, and more.

SB70 takes effect July 2018.

Industry questions may be directed to IAAPA's **Erika Scheffer** at escheffer@iaapa.org.



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SAFETY, MAINTENANCE & EDUCATION

New location and dates for the 2018 AIMS Safety Seminar

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The 2018 AIMS Safety Seminar will be held January 7-12 in Galveston, Texas. Classes will be held at the beautiful **Galveston Convention Center** with hotel accommodations at the adjacent **Hilton Galveston** and the **San Luis Resort**.

"After being in Orlando for many years, we listened to the industry's request to move the AIMS Safety Seminar to a more central U.S. location and chose Galveston for its accessibility, the wonderful facilities, and the opportunities area attractions such as the **Pleasure Pier** and **Schlitterbahn Galveston Island Water Park** offer our students. The climate is perfect and the convention center is ideal for our classes. This is going to be a fantastic year!", said AIMS Executive Director **Karen Oertley**.

Holly Coston, AIMS seminar manager added, "Under the chairmanship of **Palace Entertainment's Jeffrey Savelesky**, the AIMS Education Committee is planning many new and timely classes for 2018 Galveston. Stay tuned for more great news about the 2018 Safety Seminar."



The AIMS Safety Seminar is recognized by major parks and attractions as the worldwide leader in safety training and education. Boasting an annual enrollment of more than 350 students, the week-long seminar offers 40 class hours of education (4 CEU) and AIMS certification testing in Ride Inspection, Maintenance, Operations and Aquatics. Additional certificates are also offered. Known for its wide selection of classes and the quality of expert instructors, AIMS students can choose from more than 200 class offerings to tailor a curriculum that best fit their needs and the requirements of their employers.

Early registration for the seminar is \$595 and includes tu-



ition, class materials, CEU and completion certificates, an opening reception, daily morning and afternoon breaks, and lunch every day. AIMS certification testing and other certificates are offered at an additional fee.

Early registration will open in July with full registration starting in September. More information on the AIMS Safety Seminar can be found at www.aimsintl.org or contact Holly Coston, seminar manager at info@aimsintl.org.



The 2018 AIMS Safety Seminar will be held Jan. 7-12, 2018, at the Galveston Convention Center (below), with ride training and tours of Galveston Pleasure Pier (above) and Schlitterbahn Galveston Island (left) included. Hotels for the seminar will be the historic San Luis Resort and the Hilton Galveston. COURTESY AIMS INTL.



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AIMS 2018 Safety Seminar moves to Galveston, Texas

Nominations now being accepted for AIMS Safety Award

The BIG news from **AIMS** is that the **2018 Safety Seminar** will be held in Galveston, Texas

Everything's bigger in Texas!, at the **Galveston Island Convention Center** at the **San Luis Resort**, January 7-12, 2018. If your job or that of your employees includes responsibility for the care and safety of amusement industry guests, attending the AIMS Safety Seminar is a must. It's the **#1 Safety education seminar worldwide** for those working in the amusement industry.

After being in Orlando for many years, AIMS listened to the industry's request to move the Safety Seminar to a

more central U.S. location and chose Galveston for many reasons including its accessibility, fantastic facilities, and the opportunities offered by local area amusement attractions. The climate is perfect and the convention center is ideal for classes.

Houston Hobby Airport is served by direct flights from more than 50 destinations in the U.S. and Latin America. From there, it's an easy shuttle ride directly to Galveston Island where AIMS has secured a discounted group rate of \$115 per night at the **Galveston Hilton** which is only steps away from the beautiful Galveston Convention Center where classes will take place.

The **AIMS Seminar Education Committee**, chaired by **Palace Entertainment's Jeffrey Savelesky** is planning many new, exciting and in-



**SEE RELATED
STORY: PAGE 42**

novative classes for the 2018 Safety Seminar. Along with AIMS core class offerings, the proximity of local attractions including **Pleasure Pier**, **Schlittebahn Galveston Island** and the **Rainforest Café** will allow more hands-on learning opportunities.

Stay tuned as details are finalized in preparation for class registration set to open in September. Early registra-

tion will begin in July.

Acclaimed for its diverse curriculum (more than 200 different classes) and the quality of instructors (more than 120 industry experts), the AIMS Safety Seminar offers a broad range of safety training and education classes that can be tailored to your needs. In addition to AIMS Certification Testing in **Maintenance, Operations, Ride Inspection** and **Aquatics**, the seminar will again offer certification in **Certified Pool Operator** and **Security Awareness and Vigilance for Everyone** — approved through FEMA & The Department of Homeland Security & Operations, and **OSHA 10**. These Certification programs can be taken as part of the AIMS Safety Seminar or independently by individuals working in the live entertainment and amusement industry.

Call for nominations for the AIMS International Safety Award!

The **AIMS International Safety Award** recognizes an individual or organization that demonstrates leadership, innovation, and foresight in improving safety in the amusement industry. The first annual AIMS International Safety Award was presented to **Harold Hudson** at the **2016 Golden Ticket Awards** in **Cedar Point**. We are now accepting nominations for the 2017 AIMS Safety Award. Nomination forms and more information can be found at www.aimsintl.org. This prestigious award will be presented during the **2017 Golden Ticket Awards** on September 9, 2017, at **Lake Compounce**, in Bristol, Connecticut.

—Karen Oertley

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MUSEUM PROGRESS REPORT

This space is provided courtesy of Amusement Today, a corporate partner of the National Roller Coaster Museum & Archives.

NRCMA board tours Jimmy Dean Museum, has archives workday

The NRCMA board of directors held an early April board meeting and archives workday in Plainview, Texas. During the multi-day meeting, the board was able to tour the recently opened Jimmy Dean Museum (right) on the campus of Wayland Baptist University. The museum tracks the life of the Plainview native, who went on to enjoy a successful country music and acting career as well as launching the Jimmy Dean Sausage brand. Board members who took the Jimmy Dean Museum tour were (from left): Richard Munch, Gary Slade, Carole Sander-son, Jerry Willard, Chris Gray and Jeff Novotny. Following several days of work, the museum's climate-controlled archives were organized and cataloged.

NRCMA/RICHARD MUNCH



THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

Presented by the National Rollercoaster Museum

AT: Richard Munch



JUNE

•**1909:** The short-lived **Shifferdecker Electric Park** in Joplin, Mo., was built on dairy farmland acquired by **Charles Schifferdecker** in the early 1900s. The park was developed on the property by the local electric company, officially debuting on June 10. Besides the beautiful gardens, the amusement park boasted several rides, attractions, a zoo and pool. It also built two side-by-side wood roller coasters, the Dazy Dazer and Lovers Tub, both by **Breinig**. The two side friction coasters were erected next to each other, full of curves but few drops. The park survived only four seasons. The wealthy Schifferdecker deeded the 40 acres to the city for a public park in late 1913. It eventually expanded to 160 acres, still existing today with a municipal golf course and museum complex.

•**1922:** Sunnyside Amusement Park officially opened on the evening of June 28, touting several rides and other attractions. Located in the west end of Toronto, Ontario, the park was the result of improvements solicited by the city to develop the lakefront into a recreation and entertainment zone. The following year a wooden roller coaster, the Flyer, joined the roster. It was designed by John A. Miller, who had worked earlier on improvements to nearby Hanlan's Point Park which closed shortly thereafter. Miller would return in late 1932 to redesign the ride to a more modern standard, creating a higher, deeper and faster ride. This may have been in response to competition from the nearby Canadian National Exhibition, the only other amusement park in Toronto at the time. The ride went on to thrill several generations of Toronto's population until 1955, after the city condemned the property for expansion to its growing road system. Its closing was a boon for the CNE, as the only remaining park in the city until the 1981 opening of Canada's Wonderland.

•**1959:** The popularity of **Disneyland** created several similarly themed properties that attempted to duplicate the magic of the Anaheim park. Boston's answer to the successful California park was the opening of **Pleasure Island**, in Wakefield, Mass., on June 22. Much of the credit for the park rested on the shoulders of **William Hawkes**, a magazine publisher, and **Cornelius Wood**, who had served as Disneyland's first vice president and general manager. While Wood had an earlier falling out with Disney, he envisioned theme parks around the country built on the same principal as Disneyland. Teaming with **Marco Engineering** of Los Angeles, they built what was then called the "Disneyland of the East" with a mixture of different themed areas, including a steam train, a boat ride featuring Moby Dick and a Western town. The 80-acre park closed in 1969 and is now home to an office complex.

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-Gary Slade, Amusement Today

Arcadia releases new book spotlighting Busch Gardens Tampa Bay

REVIEW: Jeffrey Seifert
jseifert@amusementtoday.com

From its humble beginnings as an **Anheuser-Busch Brewery Tour**, **Busch Gardens Tampa Bay** has evolved to become an internationally acclaimed zoological facility, and one of the most-renowned theme parks in the world. The story of this evolution from bird-sanctuary to Applause Award-winning theme park, is the subject of a new book from Arcadia Publishing: *Images of Modern America Busch Gardens Tampa Bay*.

As is typical of the Images of America series, the story is told through a remarkable collection of more than 160 captioned photographs, most of which are in color. The 96-page paperback is divided into six chapters and was released on March 13.

The book was authored by **Joshua McMorow-Hernandez**, a Tampa native who grew up visiting Busch Gardens. Morrow assembled the photographs from private collectors and historical archives to detail the colorful history of Busch Gardens Tampa Bay. **Jim Dean**, the park president of Busch Gardens penned the foreword.

The first Busch Gardens was established in 1906 in Pasadena, Calif. at the winter home of **Adolphus Busch**, cofounder of Anheuser-Busch. A second Busch Gardens in California was established in 1996 outside of the brewery in Van Nuys that included boat rides and a monorail along with a brewery tour.

On July 25, 1957, Anheuser-Busch announced plans to build a second brewery on a 160-acre site in Tampa, Florida. The brewery was designed to produce 800,000 barrels of beer each year, and the surrounding grounds included elaborate botanical gardens and a hospitality center where adults could sample free beer. Chapter one covers construction of the brewery and the birth of Busch Gardens through 1964. Along with an ultra-modern hospitality center, Busch Gardens included a bird show, and bird gardens nursery. The gardens included several lagoons, more than 300 trees including 50 species of palms, and more than 36,000 flowering plants. The grounds were also home to hundreds of pink flamingos which took up residency at a picturesque lagoon within the gardens.

In 1964, the park opened its first restaurant, The Old Swiss House, based on a similar restaurant owned by Adolphus' wife's family in Lucerne, Switzerland.

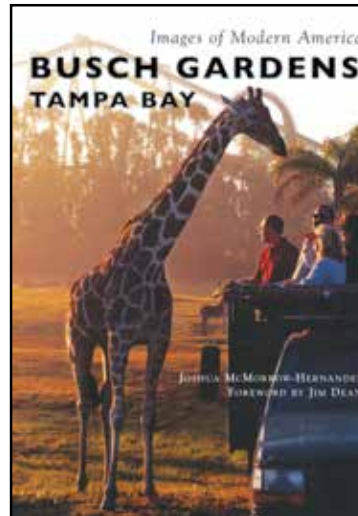
The restaurant eventually became the Crown Colony Restaurant and is today known as the Serengeti Overlook Restaurant.

Chapter two cover the years 1965 to 1974 as the park starting hosting animal exhibits and transitioned into a full-fledged zoo. In 1965 the park unveiled the Serengeti Plain — an open sanctuary that was the first of its kind outside of Africa. The Plain quickly grew from its original 29 acres to 70 acres, as the park itself grew from the original 160 acres to 365 acres. In 1966, in order to offer guests unique views of the Serengeti Plain, Busch Gardens installed what was originally called the Skyrail, a 1.3-mile-long monorail, custom-designed by **Arrow Development**.

The Serengeti Plain was so popular that Busch Gardens needed another method for guests to view the animals. In 1971 the **Trans-Veldt** railway opened, a two-mile long narrow-gauge track railroad, serviced by two **Crown** locomotives, custom built to resemble European-style trains utilized in Africa. Initially two train stations sold tickets for \$1 for the 25-minute journey. The current red train and green train are the original African-styled Crown locomotives and coaches built in 1971. The yellow train is an American-styled Crown locomotive. Those coaches and locomotive were acquired from **Kings Dominion**.

In 1973 the park opened its first major thrill ride. Stanley Falls, a log flume from Arrow Development, which still operates at the park today. A year later, a **Von Roll** 101 aerial ropeway opened, giving guests a third attraction from which to view the increasingly popular Serengeti Plain.

Chapter three covers the era from 1975 to 1982 as Busch Gardens transformed into the popular theme park familiar to most of today's guests. 1975 saw the addition of a new land at the front of the park – Morocco and with it, a new front gate. The park's first coaster was added in 1976, a standard Arrow corkscrew called Python. Over the next few years multiple rides were added to the park including an **Eyerly** Monster, **Intamin** Swing Ride, Bumper Cars, Trabant, river rapids ride, and then a second roller coaster. **Scorpion**, a **Schwarzkopf** Silberpfeil (Silverarrow) model is one of only four ever constructed and is currently the oldest roller coaster at the park. During this time, the park rebranded itself as The Dark Continent, to reflect the mystique and beauty of the African continent. By the mid



1980s that theme was de-emphasized with the "Dark Continent" dropped altogether by the end of the 1980s.

Chapter four emphasizes the conservation efforts and extensive zoological care that have been a hallmark of the Busch Gardens parks since the very beginning. In 1986, the Nairobi Field Station opened as an innovative state-of-the-art animal nursery to replace an aging facility at the same location. The park also expanded its opportunities for

educational encounters by giving guests the ability to interact with the animals. Conservation centers and educational kiosks are found throughout the park and meet-the-keeper sessions are held several times each day. Animal ambassadors are often seen roaming the park with a live animal in hand, inviting guests to touch or pet or hold.

Chapter five dwells on the 1993 to 2008 era when Busch Gardens shifted its attraction installations into high-thrill gear. **Kumba**, introduced in 1993, brought several never-before-seen elements to the coaster universe, courtesy of the relatively new team of **Bolliger & Mabillard**. Three years later, **Montu** shattered all records for the inverted coaster. By 1995 the brewery where it all began was taken off-line and closed. The aging facility had become the least efficient of Busch's 12-brewery network. Just before the turn of the millennium, the brewery was demolished and **Gwazi**, a massive wooden racing/dueling coaster, rose in its place. In 2005, another

massive coaster, **Sheikra**, wound its way through what was the quiet village of Stanleyville. By this time Busch Gardens Tampa Bay had firmly established itself as one of the top thrill parks in the nation.

Busch Gardens celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2009. The bird gardens that were part of the initial grounds still occupy a corner in the front of the park. During that first half century, the park has provided guests with thrilling attractions, award-winning entertainment, up-close animal exhibits and diversified cuisine while maintaining its status as a world-class zoo. As the next half century unfolds Busch will continue to offer its guests a unique theme park experience while never losing site of its mission to protect the world's animals and conserve the planet's natural resources.

The 96-page, softcover book, *Images of Modern America Busch Gardens Tampa Bay* is available for \$22.99 from online book retailers or directly from **Arcadia Press** at arcadiapublishing.com.



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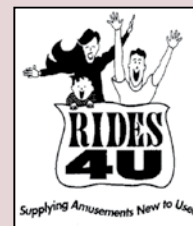
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